# THE TIMES

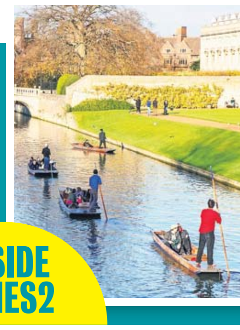
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# Sunak shies away from manifesto pledge to slash migration

**Henry Zeffman**
Associate Political Editor, Tokyo
**Matt Dathan** Home Affairs Editor

Rishi Sunak has backed away from a manifesto promise to cut immigration below 2019 levels and appears to be blaming Boris Johnson for record numbers of migrants coming to Britain.

The prime minister insisted that the government was "in control" of immigration despite official data, to be published next week, that is expected to show net migration has hit another record high of about 700,000.

This would be more than two and a half times the level of net migration in 2019, which was 271,000. The Conservative Party promised in its 2019 election manifesto that "overall numbers will come down". Sunak repeatedly avoided confirming this pledge when asked whether he stood by it yesterday, stressing that curbing illegal immigration was his priority.

"We are committed to bringing down legal migration," he said as he travelled to the G7 summit in Japan. "I do think most people's number one priority when it comes to migration is illegal migration, that is crystal clear to me. That's why one of my five priorities is to stop the boats."

Pressed on the promise to reduce overall immigration to below 2019 levels, Sunak appeared to blame Johnson's post-Brexit points-based system for causing the record numbers. He said: "I've inherited some numbers. I want to bring the numbers down."

Sunak's comments are likely to increase concerns among right-wing Tory MPs about his commitment to taking action to reduce immigration.

Cabinet ministers have yet to agree on a series of measures proposed by Suella Braverman, the home secretary, to cut immigration amid cabinet splits over the issue. She fired a warning shot

**Continued on page 2**

# Water firms' £10bn plan to prevent sewage spills

### Industry says 'sorry' after Times campaign

**Clean it up**
WATER CAMPAIGN

**Adam Vaughan** Environment Editor

Water companies have apologised for pumping sewage into the nation's rivers and promised the greatest infrastructure modernisation since the Victorian era.

In a victory for The Times's Clean It Up campaign, the industry said it would spend an extra £10 billion over the next seven years to curb sewage spills.

"We are sorry," Ruth Kelly, chairwoman of Water UK, the industry body, says in an article for The Times today. "We get why people are upset and they are right that we should have given this issue much more attention. Rivers and beaches are often not at the standard the public rightly expect; we are sorry for the part we have played in that."

Kelly credits this newspaper's campaign, and the role of activists including Feargal Sharkey and Paul Whitehouse, for putting sewage pollution at the top of the national agenda, which she says had been a "chastening experience".

The Clean it Up campaign calls for faster investment and tougher regulation to improve the state of the country's rivers, lakes and beaches. It has also demanded beefed-up powers for the Environment Agency.

Campaigners and the government welcomed the apology but said that it was "long overdue". The additional funding is likely to add to consumers' bills.

Pollution from water companies is one of the leading causes of rivers failing to reach "good ecological status", second only to that from farms. Only 16 per cent of waterways in England reach the standard, the same proportion as in 2017.

While the number of spills of untreated sewage into rivers from storm overflows fell last year, the government said much of the decline was due to dry weather. There were still more than 800 spills a day on average last year, provoking anger among communities around the country.

Kelly, a former Labour minister who took up the role at Water UK two months ago, says the industry wants "to put things right".

Water companies in England are promising to spend £10 billion by 2030 on reducing storm overflow spills, by building new storm tanks and other infrastructure. The money is in addition to the £3.1 billion they are investing between 2020 and 2025.

"It's a good number. It's a significant increase from current levels and puts investment in line with government targets to meet tough storm overflow spill reductions," Dominic Nash, an analyst at Barclays, said.

He expects that the extra investment

**Continued on page 6**

KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES/MS. FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN



**Paparazzi scare** The Duke and Duchess of Sussex were chased through red lights in a "near catastrophic" car pursuit involving photographers after leaving the Ms Foundation Women of Vision awards in New York, their spokesman said. Page 7

# Fattest people place twice as much strain on NHS funds

**Eleanor Hayward**
Health Correspondent, Dublin

Obese patients cost the NHS twice as much as those who are a healthy weight, a study has revealed.

British researchers looked at the health records of 2.4 million adults in northwest London to see how much they cost each year in terms of hospital admissions, GP appointments and prescriptions. NHS spending increased sharply the heavier patients were because they "collect" obesity-related conditions such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

The study, presented at the European Congress of Obesity in Dublin, is the first to lay bare how NHS spending varies according to a patient's weight.

Experts said the study proved that economic prosperity and the viability of the NHS was dependent on tackling rising obesity, which is driving record levels of long-term sickness.

One million patients in the study were a healthy weight and cost the NHS an average of £638 each in 2019, the final year of the study. That was less than half the £1,375 spent per year on morbidly obese patients with a body mass index (BMI) of more than 40.

The NHS spent £979 a year on obese patients with a BMI of 30-35, which rose to £1,178 a year for those with a BMI of 35-40. Overweight but not obese people, who had a BMI of 25-30, cost £756 on average — 19 per cent more than those who were healthy. The main cause of higher spending was expensive hospital treatment for obesity-related conditions, including heart attacks, cancer and kidney disease.

Only 36 per cent of adults in England are a healthy weight, with 38 per cent overweight and a further 26 per cent

**Continued on page 2**

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## TIMES RADIO sets audience record

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### Today's highlights

**8.35am** **Ruth Kelly**, chairwoman of Water UK
**11am** The former head of MI6 **Sir Richard Dearlove**
**2pm** **Mariella Frostrup** chats to **Aasmah Mir** about her new memoir Pebble in the Throat
**3.35pm** **Jane Garvey** and **Fi Glover** interview **Rory Cellan-Jones**, the former technology correspondent and Parkinson's campaigner
**5.20pm** **Paul Scully**, minister for London, launches his campaign to become the Conservative candidate for London mayor

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# I'll cut taxes when inflation starts to fall, vows Sunak

**Henry Zeffman**
Associate Political Editor

Rishi Sunak has promised to "bring people's taxes down" when inflation eases and insisted that the economy was "outperforming" expectations.

Sunak was speaking as he flew to Japan for the G7 summit of world leaders — his first as prime minister. Asked about research from the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) suggesting that one in five Britons would be paying the higher rate of income tax, the prime minister said: "I'm a low-tax Conservative. I want to bring people's taxes down."

He added: "I want people's hard work to be rewarded, so I do want to be able to bring people's taxes down over time. Right now we're grappling with high inflation and elevated borrowing, and it is important and responsible to deal with that first."

The IFS said this week that many teachers, nurses and electricians were among the taxpayers who would be pulled into the rate designed for the wealthy because of a six-year freeze on thresholds.

Sunak's use of fiscal drag to raise revenue should be seen as a "very large tax increase", which was super-charging a "seismic" change to the tax system that piled more of the burden on to those in normal jobs, the think tank said.

Pressed on whether the IFS was too pessimistic to say that the tax burden would not return to its pre-Covid level for decades, Sunak replied: "The IFS will make its own estimates. What I would say is recently we've seen massive upgrades in our growth estimates from a range of different people — the Bank of England and others, including the IMF previously.

"You can see that in all the surveys from CFOs [chief financial officers] and other things — I think economic optimism is increasing, consumer confidence is increasing, growth estimates are being raised.

"If you look at the ONS [Office for National Statistics] numbers on real household disposable income — which you all reported when there were some very pessimistic forecasts — if you look at the most recent set of numbers, they are hugely outperforming what people thought … I think there are lots of signs that things are moving in the right direction."

He insisted that he was "pretty confident" Brexit was delivering economic benefits to the UK.

"I voted for Brexit, I believe in Brexit," he said. "As chancellor and prime minister, I am actually delivering the benefits of Brexit as opposed to talking about it.

"As chancellor I introduced freeports — a Brexit benefit around the country attracting jobs and investment to lots of different places. We cut VAT on sanitary products, we reformed the alcohol duties that mean this summer you will be able to get cheaper beer in pubs. These are all very tangible benefits of Brexit that I've already delivered."

Asked about the delay to the retained EU law bill, Sunak said: "What I said [I would do] was review them all, which is what I have done, we have put someone in charge of it, which we have done, and I have said I will reform and repeal the ones that have most impact on the economy."

He added: "That is absolutely the right approach. And again, what we announced the other day, reform to the bureaucracy around the working time directive that is going to save businesses, particularly small businesses, a billion pounds a year. These are big reforms. These are not small things and they come on top of all the other things.

"I feel pretty confident that we are delivering the benefits of Brexit from an economic perspective, the track record is very clear on that."

**Sunak says Japan trade deal could help to keep the peace in region, page 10**

## TODAY'S EDITION

### World to breach 1.5C climate cap

For the first time in history, the world is more likely than not to be 1.5C warmer in the next five years than it was during the industrial revolution, according to a new study. **Page 11**

### Ukraine admits assassinations

Ukraine has admitted assassinating several Kremlin propagandists on Russian soil. Kyiv's military intelligence chief said the country had "successfully targeted quite a few people". **Page 30**

### City give Madrid a real thrashing

Bernardo Silva scored twice as Manchester City thrashed Real Madrid 4-0 at the Etihad stadium to book a place in next month's Champions League final against Inter. **Page 70**

**50** days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia #FreeEvan



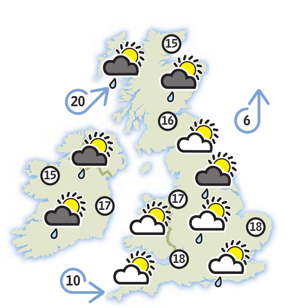

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### THE WEATHER




Mostly dry with the odd shower in the south, patchy rain elsewhere
**Full forecast, page 59**

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# Daily claims for sickness benefit increase to 5,000

**Chris Smyth** Whitehall Editor

There are about 5,000 claims a day for sickness benefits, many for poor mental health, and government figures forecast that more than a million extra people will be on long-term disability payments within five years.

Estimates suggest that the number receiving disability benefits will rise almost 50 per cent to 3.7 million, according to the Department for Work and Pensions. Previous figures showed that new claims doubled after the pandemic, with tens of thousands of people starting disability benefits every month.

Ministers are searching for ways to keep people in work, as companies struggle to fill a million vacancies. However, a planned shake-up to get people off disability benefits has been delayed until after the general election. Mel Stride, the work and pensions secretary, wants to let people claim sickness benefits while returning to work to overcome disincentives for resuming jobs. But no time is likely to be found for the reform before the election.

His department estimates that the 2.5 million people receiving disability living allowance and personal independent payments now will increase to 3.7 million by 2027-28. The Office for Budget Responsibility has warned that rising long-term sickness will increase the benefits bill from £39 billion a year now to £53 billion a year.

This would mean spending 1.8 per cent of GDP on disability benefits, up from 0.3 per cent 30 years ago. In that time the number claiming long-term sickness benefit has increased from 600,000 to about 2.8 million.

A record 2.55 million people are not working because of long-term sickness, an increase of more than 400,000 since the start of the pandemic. Causes are thought to include the effects of Covid and long NHS waiting lists.

The numbers are part of a wider problem of almost nine million people not working. Stride said last week that reducing inactivity to pre-Covid levels would allow a 2p cut in income tax.

Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, said about a quarter of those on sickness benefits wanted to work.

"We have about 76 per cent employment rate of our adult population, which is about average for the OECD. If we had the employment levels they have in Holland, we would have 2.7 million more people in work then we currently do," he said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
## Strain on NHS

obese. This suggests that the NHS would save about £13.7 billion a year — nearly one tenth of its entire budget — if everyone were a healthy weight.

Public health experts say the NHS is being forced to "pay for years of failure" from governments that have resisted calls for interventionist anti-obesity policies. A plan announced by Boris Johnson in 2020 to restrict junk food advertising and ban buy-one-get-one-free deals has been scrapped, with many Tory MPs opposed to "nanny-statism".

Dr Jonathan Pearson-Stuttard, of Imperial College London, who led the study, said: "People collect more and more obesity-related conditions over time. Not only is that impacting individual health but also costs to the NHS and the economic workforce."

Katharine Jenner, director of the Obesity Health Alliance, said the government should ensure "the healthy choice is the easy choice for everyone".

● Obese teenagers should be put on powerful new weight-loss drugs for the rest of their lives, scientists say. A study, also presented in Dublin, found that weekly injections of semaglutide, which suppresses appetite and has been approved for NHS use in adults, helps children to return to a healthy weight. Experts said it should be made available to everyone over the age of 12 with obesity, but warned that their weight would rise if they stopped taking it.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
## Migration manifesto pledge

towards the cabinet colleagues blocking her proposals this week by saying that the government must reduce immigration by the general election or Britain would risk "forgetting how to do things for ourselves".

Yesterday Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, signalled that immigration controls would be eased further to plug labour shortages in the short term but said inactive British workers must fill gaps in the future. He told the British Chambers of Commerce conference that the government would always be "sensible and pragmatic" about using immigration to fill vacancies in the economy.

Aides insisted that his call for British workers to fill shortages in the longer term was aligned with Braverman.

The lack of policies to reduce immigration contrasts with two measures introduced since Sunak came into government that have opened up Britain's immigration system further.

In December the government lifted the cap on seasonal workers from 30,000 to 45,000 and this week Sunak said the scheme would be extended next year in response to demands from farmers. In his March budget Hunt announced that five construction jobs — roofers, tilers, carpenters, plasterers and bricklayers — would be added to the shortage occupation list.

On illegal migration, Sunak said that he had achieved "very tangible" results from his visit on Tuesday to Iceland, where he won agreement from Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, to negotiate a new partnership with Frontex, the EU's border agency, to help combat small boats.

A government source said the agreement would help British and French police disrupt people-smuggling gangs and offer them better intelligence about movements of people.

**Politics, pages 8-10**

# Titchmarsh takes a dig at rewilding

The presenter wants the Chelsea Flower Show to stop 'pandering' and get back to gardening, writes **Will Humphries**

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



**A Rewilding Britain Landscape won best in show at Chelsea last year but Alan Titchmarsh said organisers risked "shooting themselves in the foot" if they made a similar award again**



Last year's winning garden at the Chelsea Flower Show imagined a re-wilded landscape marked by beavers, but with no evidence of gardening.

Now, before this year's event, Alan Titchmarsh, the TV gardener, has urged judges to stop "pandering" to rewilding and celebrate gardening. He said the Royal Horticultural Society, which organises the show in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, would be "shooting itself in the foot" if it awarded another rewilded garden best in show.

Writing in Country Life magazine, Titchmarsh, 74, said the show's "prime aim" should be to "celebrate horticultural excellence". He added: "I can't think of anyone who would argue with that. It's only that, sometimes, it is obscured by the need to demonstrate that gardeners are not dyed-in-the-wool traditionalists, but vibrant folk with a finger on the current environmentalist pulse. This can lead us down a garden path that endangers the very things we ought to cherish."

Lulu Urquhart and Adam Hunt, first-time Chelsea exhibitors, won best in show last year for their A Rewilding Britain Landscape garden. It featured a beaver dam, gurgling stream and meadow that appeared untouched by human hands. James Alexander-Sinclair, chairman of the judges, said the garden "hit the heartstrings", adding: "It has a certain zeitgeist. Gardening is not immune to fashion and rewilding is what people are talking about. People were looking forward to this garden, they were excited about the idea of this garden and it did not disappoint."

The award divided critics, with Monty Don and Joe Swift, presenters of the BBC's *Gardeners' World*, questioning whether it could even be called a garden. Swift suggested that there should be a new "landscape category" for such creations.

Titchmarsh, a vice-president of the RHS, said the organisation risked undermining its raison d'être by not championing gardening skills at the show. "To allow one garden predicated on no intervention from man to be considered best in show is risky," he said. "But should it happen again then a society devoted to and predicated on passing on horticultural skills could legitimately be accused of shooting itself in the foot. Why are we so frightened of promoting gardening?"

Titchmarsh said he worried about "pandering to current trends and allowing gardening to become predicated on a kind of laissez-faire attitude to plants that eschews any kind of human interference".

The organic gardener warned against assuming that nature was best left to itself and that "any muscling in on our part is to be deplored". He said: "Gardening is, by it's very nature, intervention. But intervention intent on enabling plants to grow well and produce a scent that we find uplifting.

"The judges of the show gardens need to remember that the thousands who attend the show enjoy beautiful plants and gardens they feel they want to be in even more than off-the-wall design ideas that are regarded as 'cutting edge'.

"Yes, we need refreshing ideas, but at the heart of this show should be a celebration of gardening."

The RHS's flagship spring show has been held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea since 1913. The royal family has traditionally attended its opening day, with the late Queen being driven around the gardens in a golf buggy during her final visit last year.

Helena Pettit, RHS's director of gardens and shows, said it saw a "great mix of entries" for Chelsea every year.

"New trends emerge every year," she said. "Last year was rewilding, this year is weeds and drought-tolerant planting to highlight the benefits of biodiversity. Judges are independent of the RHS. They are highly experienced experts from across the horticultural industry, and follow a strict judging criteria."

This year's show runs from Monday until Saturday.

**Flower show stimulates debate on horticulture, leading article, page 29**

## A heritage that's worth cultivating

**Behind the story**

**Alan Titchmarsh is absolutely right that the RHS should be promoting the art and craft of horticulture. The irony is that those skills, used to create formal and flowery Chelsea show gardens, also allow designers to create "rewilded" Chelsea gardens: frozen pictures of "would-be" nature (Stephen Anderton writes).**

**And it is quite unfair of the RHS to pretend that these rewilded gardens are anything but a subtle contrivance made with native plants. They are more message than garden and therefore they may have a place at Chelsea, but not as show gardens.**

**The bigger question they raise is the unfashionability of non-native plants, which have traditionally been used to make domestic and Chelsea gardens.**

**Perhaps there is a suspicion growing that there lurks in non-native plants introduced from foreign lands the taint of Empire. But the cultivation of garden plants is surely a question of valuing heritage, of hundreds of years of plant introduction that has made the diversity of Britain's palette of garden plants the envy of the world; it should not be sidelined but celebrated, along with the skills that support it.**

**Chelsea is its international window. The skills and artistry required to grow that full range of non-native plants is greater than for natives because of the larger range of habitats and species involved, and the RHS admirably demonstrates these skills in its gardens.**

**These are the skills that absolutely should be demonstrated at Chelsea, skills that would also set up any gardener to more ably manage a garden of native plants whose care is generally speaking more straightforward.**

**A truly wild garden has its own living agenda and will develop in its own way, not necessarily to the convenience of its owners.**

**The smaller the garden, the greater the inconvenience, and that is why learning the skills of managing any plants to good effect, native or exotic, is so vital for a wild garden.**

**Otherwise chaos reigns and the space becomes socially unusable, an impenetrable area, all too typically of brambles, nettles, ivy and seedling sycamores, with little colour to lift the heart.**

**The RHS, if it were genuinely true to its passion for all things environmental, would be rewarding formal Chelsea gardens that also included docks and nettles, but it does not. Instead it has too easily rewarded those rather less realistic and harder to manage "rewilded" gardens. Time it had the courage of its convictions.**

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# BBC eyes 'safe' successor to Sharp

**Alex Farber** Media Correspondent

A Welsh-speaking BBC board member described as a "safe bet" has emerged as the frontrunner to become the corporation's acting chairwoman.

Dame Elan Closs Stephens, a non-executive director, is expected to take over after a turbulent few months.

Richard Sharp resigned as chairman after he was found to have failed to disclose his role in facilitating an £800,000 loan guarantee for Boris Johnson, then prime minister, while applying for the post.

Under the BBC's royal charter, the acting chair must be drawn from the BBC's pool of non-executive directors by the culture secretary, Lucy Frazer, in consultation with the board.

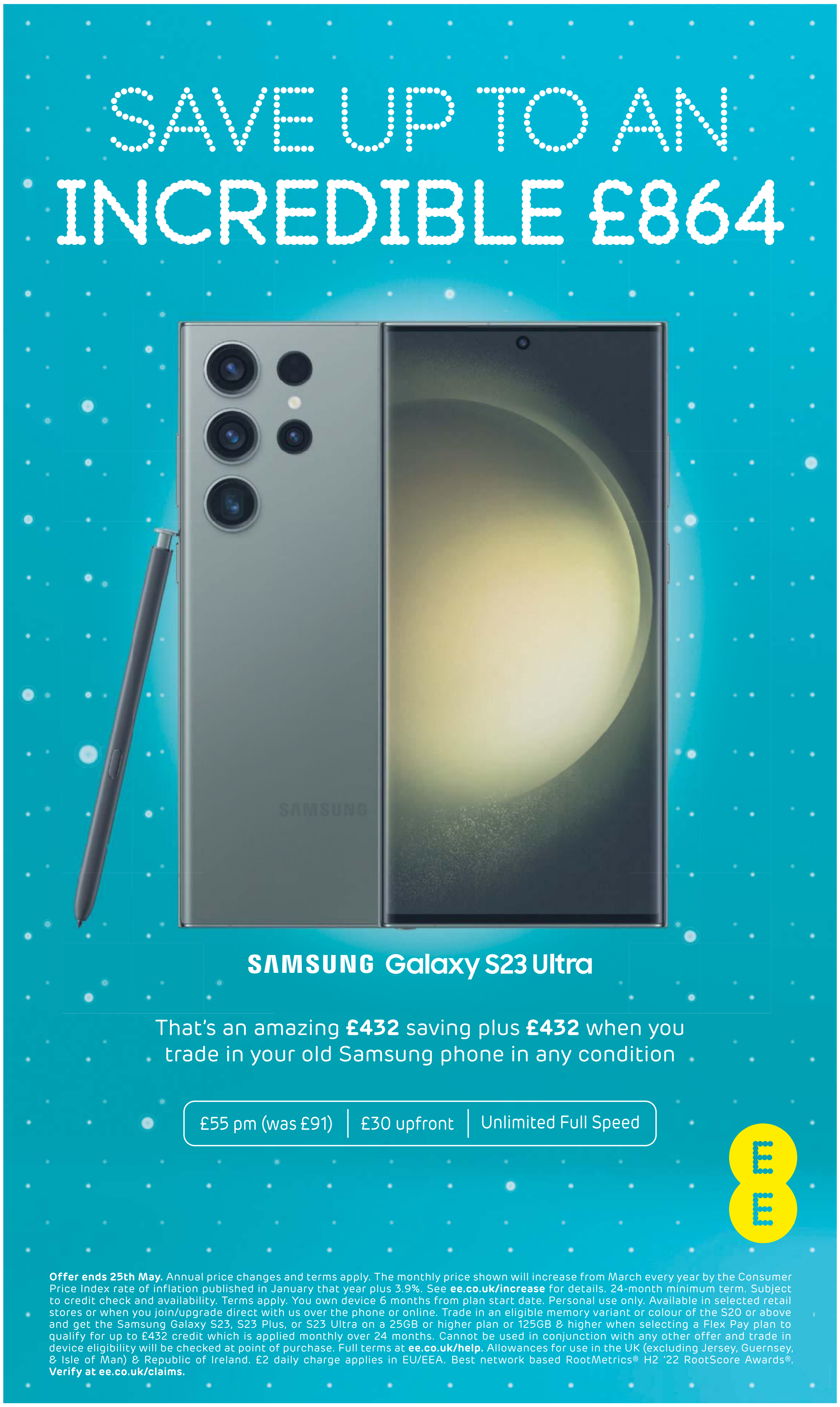
Closs Stephens is likely to serve a term of about six months. One individual who has worked closely with her said that she would bring some much-needed stability to the role. "Elan is very, very smart, full of principles and highly experienced," they said. "She is such a safe bet after Sharp — no one is going to find anything on her." They added that she would bring an array of qualities to the role, including a focus on creativity.

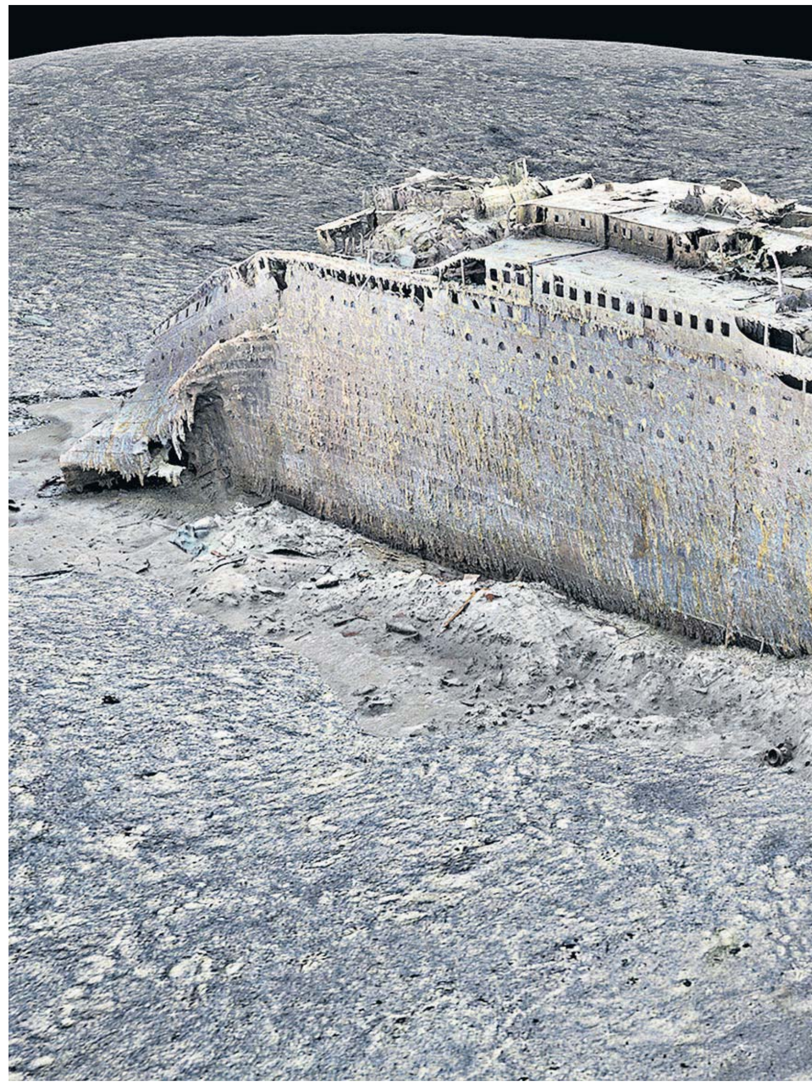
Several echoed the view that appointing Closs Stephens would be a sensible move. "Elan is bright, interested and shrewd," another colleague said.

Other potential candidates included Sir Nicholas Serota, Sir Damon Buffini and Sir Robbie Gibb.

One insider suggested that Serota, who oversaw the BBC's investigation into Sharp, may have been the government's preferred candidate. However, he is understood to have reservations given he already has the demands of being Arts Council England chairman.

Gibb, a former No 10 director of communications under Theresa May, has reportedly ruled himself out, while Buffini, the BBC deputy chairman, is thought to be eyeing up the permanent position. "It isn't an easy job, so why would he risk blotting his copybook?" the insider said.



# Scan brings

Hi-tech 3D imaging of the wreck using 700,000 photos could reveal new details about the disaster, **Jack Blackburn** writes

For decades, the wreck of the world's most famous doomed ship could be seen only by daring explorers, scientists and the makers of multibillion-dollar films.

Now, 3D scanning technology will allow us to study the Titanic from the comfort of dry land.

Magellan, a deep sea mapping company, has completed a full scan of the vessel as it lies on the ocean floor. It includes everything from the grand scale of the ship to the detail of unopened champagne bottles and dozens of shoes.

The imaging also shows the two sections of the ship — bow and stern — which separated when the ship broke in half as it sank. They lie some 800 metres apart, in the middle of a large field of debris.

While the scan creates the possibility of bringing the public closer to the wreck than they could ever have hoped, its main aim is to assist in the study of the ship.

Since its discovery in 1985, cameras have been able to capture much of the vessel, but only in glimpses through the dark depths of the Atlantic.

The scan, on the other hand, provides a 360-degree view of the wreck which allows for greater investigation. It may even challenge long-held assumptions about the sinking.

"There are still questions, basic questions, that need to be answered about the ship," Parks Stephenson, a Titanic analyst, told BBC News. "We really don't understand the character of the collision with the iceberg. We don't even know if she hit it along the starboard side, as is shown in all the movies — she might have grounded on the iceberg."

The scan was conducted last year by Magellan, in partnership with Atlantic Productions, a television production company that has been documenting the project.

A fleet of remote-controlled submersibles spent more than 200 hours capturing 700,000 images of the wreck from every conceivable angle. The size and depth of the ship made this uniquely challenging.

"The depth of it, almost 4,000 metres, represents a challenge, and you have currents at the site, too, and we're not allowed to touch anything so as not to damage the wreck," said Gerhard Seiffert of Magellan.

"The other challenge is that you have to map every square centimetre, even uninteresting parts, like on the debris field you have to map mud, but you need this to fill in between all these interesting objects," he explained.

As with previous footage of the wreck, the scan has a haunting air as it includes obvious signs of the human life aboard the ship, whose sinking claimed more than 1,500 lives.

At one point on the ship's deck, there is a gaping hole immediately above the famous grand staircase which went on to be immortalised in the 1997 blockbuster film directed by James Cameron.

The two sections have contrasting natures. The bow remains proud and almost familiar from its recreations in images and movies, though it is marked by rust and decay.

However, the stern is in a calamitous

ATLANTIC PRODUCTIONS/MAGELLAN












The bulk of the ship still remains intact, despite lying on the bed of the Atlantic for 111 years. The ship was captured from every angle, a process that took 200 hours

# secrets of the Titanic to surface



A propeller lies amid the wreckage spread over the ocean floor. The serial number 401 can be made out

state. When it sank, it was not fully filled with water and the increased pressure caused air pockets to rip apart the hull. Further damage occurred upon its impact with the sea bed.

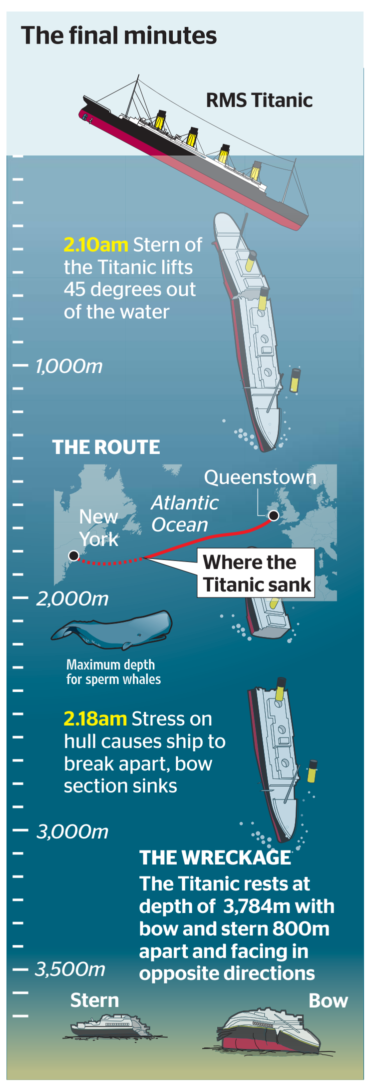
The scan has also captured the Titanic at a particular point of time, allowing its future decay to be better charted. It is possible that a repeat of the scan in five or ten years' time could measure the progress of the wreck's disintegration, potentially prompting greater debate over what should be done to preserve it.

The scan shows rust clearly visible on the ship, and there are already elements which have gone missing since Ballard first discovered the wreck. One of the most notable absentees is the ship's crow's nest.

Aside from the nature of the wreck, there are human stories too which may be better illuminated. For instance, members of the crew were sent to open the cargo hold doors and were never seen again, yet we can see that they were successful in their task.

Even 111 years after it sank, the Titanic still has stories to tell. However, it will not always be there to do it and is changing all the while. The scan has frozen it in time as it decays and will for ever offer a snapshot of the entirety of the ship's grave at the bottom of the Atlantic.

"What it's showing you now is the true state of the wreck," Stephenson said. "It allows you to see the wreck as you can never see it from a submersible, and you can see the wreck in its entirety, you can see it in context and perspective."




# It could be time to raise the bow — and put it on display

**Tim Maltin**
**Comment**

This was such a significant challenge, and is now a great opportunity for further research.

The hundreds of thousands of photographs taken have been stitched together, allowing us to make decisions not just about what happened the night the Titanic sank, but also about how we should preserve the wreck.

For the first time, you can see the whole wreck on the sea bed in context; how far the stern is from the bow; the No 401 on the propeller, Titanic's build number. These remarkable images give us a chance to explore the mysteries that the Titanic has not yet given up.

One of the big ones is the nature of the impact with the iceberg. The inquiry into the sinking worked out that it caused intermittent damage over a 60m length of the hull, and we know from the helmsman that he felt the ship "running over" the ice. But what exactly he felt is still a mystery that hasn't yet been revealed.

The scans bring us one step closer to learning the true nature of the contact between the ship and the berg, but what we don't know yet is the exact nature of the damage under the mud.

The bottom of the bow section is buried quite deep. A great next stage would be a geophysical survey, such as archaeologists use, to work out how much damage was on the side of the bow, and how much of it was to the flat bottom of Titanic.

Aside from what we can learn from the wreck is the question of what we should do with it now. When Bob Ballard found the wreck in 1985, I think he felt a little like he had opened Pandora's box. He worried that bounty hunters would pillage the wreck. He wanted it hidden and preserved.

I personally think that the time has come to consider a different option. There is a lot to be said for leaving the stern where it is, as a memorial, but there is a strong case to raise the bow before it disintegrates any further. In fact, it would cost less to raise it than it would to make the next blockbuster film about the Titanic. Certainly, the return on investment for any interested philanthropist would be significant in terms of global tourism. The ship could even be displayed in Belfast's Titanic Quarter, where it was constructed.

But given that this is possibly unlikely to happen, at least at the moment, having this scan is a great resource. It is a record of the ship as it is today, almost trapped in amber.

*Tim Maltin is a historian and author of 101 Things You Thought You Knew About the Titanic ... but Didn't!*

## Sands lose elite status after water quality dips

Three beaches on the north Norfolk coast have lost their Blue Flag awards due to a drop in water quality (Will Humphries writes).

The status at East Runton, Mundesley and Sea Palling dropped from excellent to good.

Fourteen beaches in the east of England have been recognised with Blue Flags, one fewer than last year.

The international award is given to "well-managed beaches with excellent water quality and environmental education programmes".

Keep Britain Tidy, which manages the awards, said that the beaches were assessed on safety, water quality and waste. Water quality is monitored during the bathing season, from May to September, by the Environment Agency, which releases up-to-date information in swimming spots, where pollution levels may have been affected by weather or sea conditions.

This year 77 beaches in England have been awarded Blue Flag status, down from 80 last year.

Tim Adams, the Liberal Democrat leader of North Norfolk district council, said that they were working with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency to get Blue Flags back at the three beaches.

Analysis by the Lib Dems found that there were 8,500 hours of sewage discharges from overflows close to England's Blue Flag beaches last year.




ALAMY

East Runton and Mundesley, inset, have lost their highest bathing water quality awards, as the number of Blue Flags in England went from 80 to 77

# £10bn plan to stop sewage spills

Continued from page 1

could add about £30 a year to the present average annual household water bill of £448 in England. Other experts suggested the increase could be less. The investments this decade are part of the £56 billion companies are expected to spend by 2050 to meet government spill reduction targets.

Surfers Against Sewage, a charity that is holding protests across England on Saturday against pollution, said the new investment must be shouldered by water companies. "This investment must come out of water company profits, not from the bill payer," Izzy Ross, its campaign manager, said. She welcomed the apology and investment but said that companies should have acted years ago.

River Action, a charity that helps the local river campaigners, said the new pledges were welcome and would help restore trust. "Honest recognition of the problem will be seen as a positive indicator of humility and responsibility, especially if repeated with meaning by all water company CEOs," James Wallace, the charity's chief executive, said.

Rebecca Pow, the water minister, said: "This apology by the water industry is not before time and I welcome it."

However, Ed Davey, the Lib Dem leader, said: "This apology and plan just don't go far enough. This announcement does nothing to match the billions water firms have paid out in dividends to overseas investors, or stop their CEOs being handed multimillion-pound bonuses."

In the past fortnight, the bosses of three of the ten sewage companies operating in England have waived bonuses worth hundreds of thousands of pounds over pollution concerns.

More detail is expected this summer when companies lay out their approach in a National Overflows Plan. The onus will then be on the regulator Ofwat, as the companies will only be able to make the investment if it approves business plans submitted in October.

Water UK said its members would also create a new national map showing near real-time spills across England, which it said would be a world first.

Water industry is finally recognising the need to act, leading article, page 29

## We're sorry. This is our chance to put things right

**Ruth Kelly**
**Comment**

**Almost exactly two months ago today, I started as the new chairwoman of Water UK, the body that represents all of the UK's water companies. I did so because there are few things more important than water. Access to clean water sustains us — but more than that, our quality of life depends on being able to enjoy rivers and seas that we know are clean and safe.**

**The Times' Clean It Up campaign, along with campaigners such as Feargal Sharkey and Paul Whitehouse, has pushed the issue of sewage to the top of the national agenda. Water companies have been in the spotlight — and it has been a chastening experience.**

**I want to tell everyone today that we've listened and we've heard.**

**And on behalf of water and sewage companies in England, I want to say: we are sorry. We get why people are upset and they are right that we should have given this issue much more attention. Rivers and beaches are often not at the standard the public rightly expect; we are sorry for the part we have played in that.**

**We want to put things right.**

**Our sewers are old and stretch for hundreds of thousands of miles. The Victorians designed them to mix rainwater with waste water from bathrooms and kitchens. It was remarkable engineering at the time, but their design means that during times of heavy rain, sewage overflows into rivers and beaches to prevent it backing up into houses.**

**Since the 1960s, rainwater has been separated from sewage, but we have a huge legacy of combined infrastructure that remains. Modernising that is a huge job, but we are determined to fix things as quickly as we can.**

**Today we are announcing a huge transformation programme, the biggest rebuild of our sewage system since the Victorians. Later in the summer we will publish more details in a National Overflows Plan. We're ready to back that by tripling investment to £10 billion, as part of an intense programme of activity over the next seven years. We expect that, by 2030, this initial wave of investment will cut sewage overflows by up to 140,000 each year compared with the level in 2020.**

**We will focus on high priority areas, such as sites of special scientific interest. Our plan will increase the capacity of sewage works, rebuild sewer pipes and install the equivalent of thousands of Olympic swimming pool-sized storm tanks to hold rainwater.**

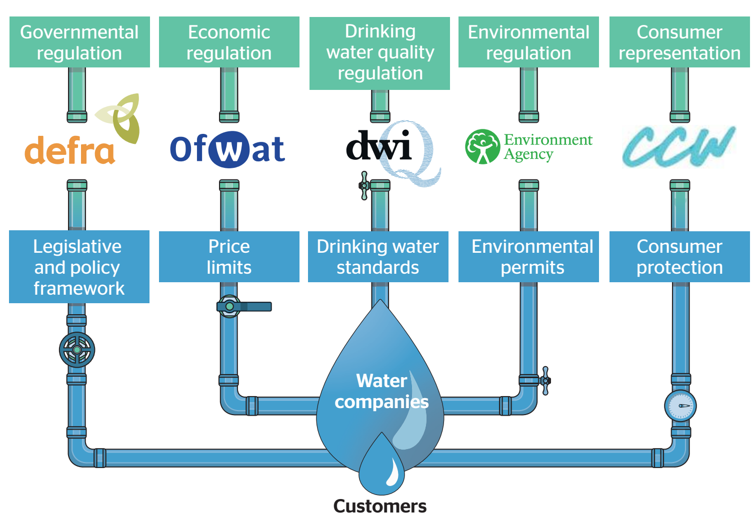
**Our plan will set out how much we plan to spend, where and when. If projects are approved by regulators, then each community will know exactly when sewage issues will be tackled in their area and be able to hold water and sewage companies to account. Each water and sewage company will also support the rollout of new river swimming areas, by providing help to up to 100 communities in drawing up plans, applying for legal protection, covering the costs of pre-submission water testing and working with regulators to fix local sources of pollution.**

**Alongside this, we are committing ourselves to greater transparency to improve accountability. By this time next year, we will have created a National Environment Data Hub — overseen independently — to publish data on sewage overflows.**

**Looking back, the water industry has not shown the leadership it should have done on sewage spills. We should have acted faster to respond to their obvious impact on people's enjoyment of rivers and beaches. Today's announcement is the first step in putting that right.**

***Ruth Kelly is chairwoman of Water UK***

**Who are the regulators and what do they do?**




## Analysis

Even some of their fiercest critics admit that firms have made strides in tackling water pollution (Adam Vaughan writes). However, progress has struggled to keep up with new buildings and population growth, amid a focus on keeping bills down rather than improving the environment. Simultaneously, greater monitoring has revealed the full extent of sewage dumping.

The cumulative effect has been an erosion of public trust in the water sector. It is one of the main causes of poor river quality, alongside agriculture and run-off from roads. An Opinium poll for the charity Surfers Against Sewage found that only 21 per cent of people were confident water firms were using their money to improve services. The Lib Dems and Labour are promising tough regulation, and the government this week finished consulting on unlimited fines for pollution.

The mea culpa by Water UK, and a promise of greater investment, is an effort to win back trust. There were more than 300,000 sewage spills from storm overflows last year. Under the £10 billion of extra spending this decade, the sector expects to reduce them by as much as 140,000 by 2030.

The key question is: who pays? Campaigners have said that profits should bear the brunt. Last year £1.4 billion in dividends was paid to shareholders.

Yet it is clear that some of the burden will have to fall on household bills too. The government thinks its plan to cut spills will raise the average £448 annual water bill in England by about £12 by 2030. Barclays analysts think it could be closer to £30.

The industry announcement looks like a substantial step towards curbing dumping. The spills are one of the most visible signs of water pollution, but curbing them will not be "job done" for the firms. They must also tackle the volume of sewage treatment works' effluent that is putting pressure on rivers.

# Channel 4 drops Escape to the Chateau after bullying claims

**Ben Ellery**
**Alex Farber** Media Correspondent

Channel 4 has dropped the programme *Escape to the Chateau* after allegations of bullying by its stars, Dick and Angel Strawbridge, emerged in The Times.

The broadcaster commissioned an inquiry after the production company, Two Rivers Media, raised concerns about the couple's behaviour. Channel 4 decided to cut ties with the show following an investigation by an independent HR professional, the entertainment news website Deadline revealed.

A production source told The Times: "Two Rivers got to the end of their tether with the behaviour of both of them around how they acted towards the company and production staff. It's a huge brand for Channel 4 so it tells you how bad the situation was."

In 2021, The Times reported that sources from the show's previous production company, Spark Media, said the couple were aggressive, abusive and bullying and made working on the programme an "anxiety-inducing ordeal".

In one recording, obtained by this newspaper, Angel exploded with anger at a producer, calling him a "f***ing c***". Another features Strawbridge, a former army officer, telling a producer "f*** you". The producer walked off the show after only four days.

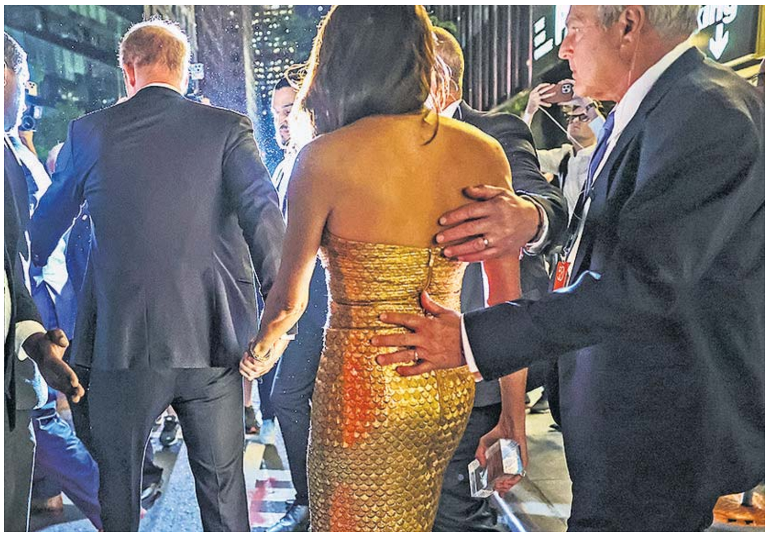
At the time representatives for the couple denied that they were aggressive or bullying. They claimed that staff working on more recent episodes said they did not recognise the conduct that had been alleged. The exact nature of the latest allegations is not known, but Deadline reported that three of the couple's former colleagues alleged that the pair clashed with producers.

The show followed the couple through the trials and tribulations of undertaking the purchase, renovation and restoration of a 19th-century estate in Martigné-sur-Mayenne, northwest France. Channel 4 said: "Following a review, we have taken the decision not to work with Dick and Angel."

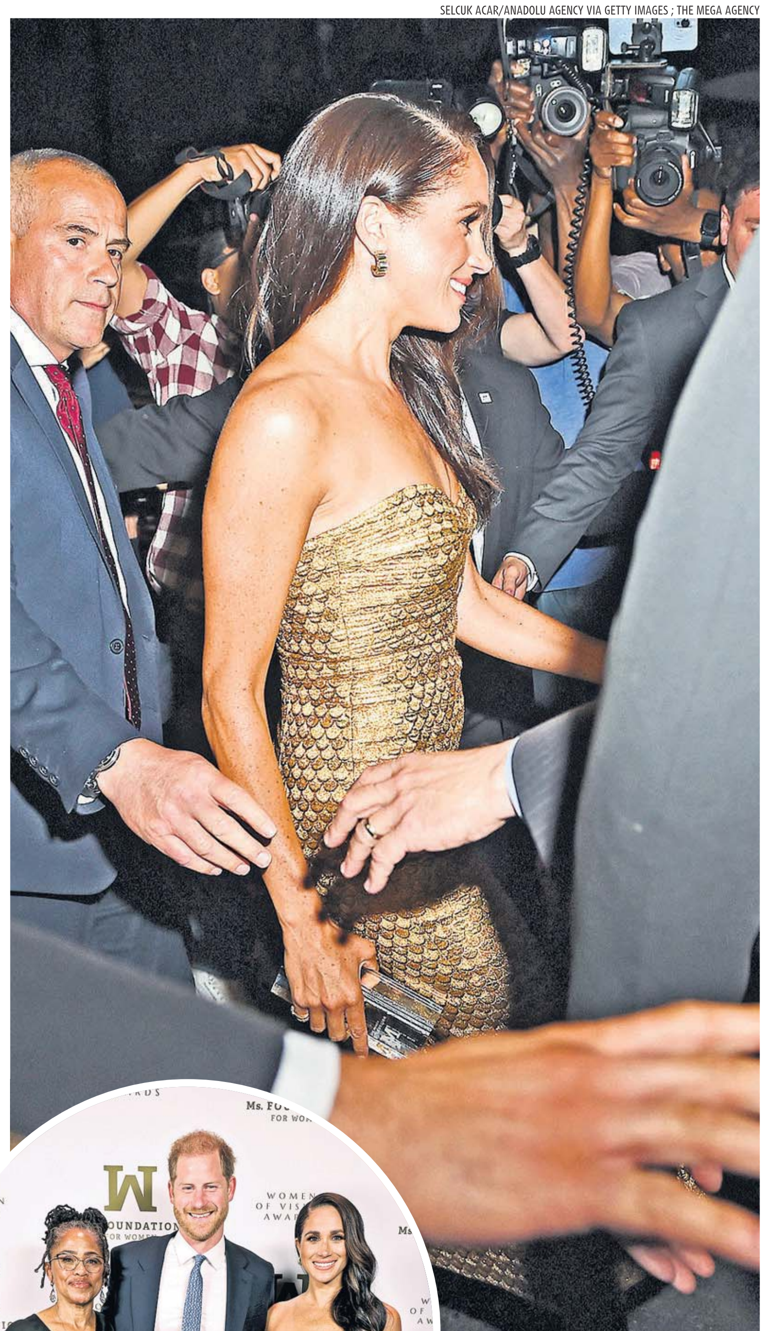
Two Rivers said: "We can confirm that we will no longer work with Dick and Angel and cannot comment further at the moment."

The show's ninth and final series was shown late last year. A spin-off travel show *Escape to the Chateau: Secret France* is being edited but Channel 4 has not said if it will be broadcast.

The Strawbridges did not respond to a request for comment.



SELCUK ACAR/ANADOLU AGENCY VIA GETTY IMAGES ; THE MEGA AGENCY





The Duke and Duchess of Sussex were pursued by paparazzi after leaving a gala in New York. Also in their car was Meghan's mother, Doria Ragland

# Sussexes in 'two-hour car chase pursued by paparazzi'

**Tom Witherow, Valentine Low**
**Kieran Gair, Charlie Parker, Will Pavia**

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex were pursued in a "near catastrophic car chase" by paparazzi photographers on Tuesday night in New York, a spokesman for the couple has claimed.

New York police said that "numerous photographers" followed the couple, making their travel "challenging", but that there were no collisions, injuries or arrests.

The duke told friends it was the "closest I have ever felt" to understanding what happened on the night that his mother, Princess Diana, died.

The couple, who were travelling with the duchess's mother, Doria Ragland, issued a statement claiming that "highly aggressive paparazzi" harassed them, chased them through red lights and caused "multiple near collisions" with other cars. A source close to the couple said they believed that the incident "could have been fatal" and that they were "very shaken up" by the ordeal.

They were travelling to a friend's house after the duchess was presented with a Woman of Vision award at the Ms Foundation annual gala, when they were pursued by a dozen vehicles, the Sussexes claim. The pursuing cars mounted the pavement and reversed down one-way streets as part of the chase, which the Sussexes claimed lasted for two hours. They continued to follow and "harass" them despite being confronted by uniformed officers "multiple times", they said.

"The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, and Ms Ragland, were involved in a near catastrophic car chase at the hands of a ring of highly aggressive paparazzi," a spokesman said. "This relentless pursuit, lasting over two hours, resulted in multiple near collisions involving other drivers on the road, pedestrians and two NYPD officers."

Sources close to the Sussexes said that one photographer's car hit a parked vehicle.

Police said: "On Tuesday evening, May 16, [the New York Police Department] assisted the private security team protecting the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. There were numerous photographers that made their transport challenging.

"The Duke and Duchess of Sussex arrived at their destination and there were no reported collisions, summonses, injuries, or arrests in regard."

Video recordings from Tuesday night showed the duke and duchess, and her mother, leaving the awards ceremony shortly before 10pm through a scrum of photographers to get into the back of a black four-wheel drive vehicle.

After they were followed, they sought refuge in a police station and changed vehicles, using a taxi in an effort to lose the paparazzi, it was reported. This failed, and the taxi returned them to the police station after ten minutes.

The taxi driver said he was pursued by two cars. Sukhcharn Singh, 37, told The Washington Post: "They kept following us and were coming next to the car. They took pictures as we stopped and were filming us. I never felt like I was in danger." Interviewed on TalkTV, he said: "I've had other celebrities in my cab as well but this one, they surrounded the car and went crazy with the camera." He added that the Sussexes were "nervous".

Eric Adams, the mayor of New York, said it was "reckless and irresponsible" to conduct a chase, saying that "two of our officers could have been injured". He said he would "find it hard to believe" that a high-speed chase took place for two hours, but "even a ten-minute chase is extremely dangerous".

Harry has previously referred to the paparazzi as "a pack of dogs" who constantly hounded his mother before her death in a Paris car crash in 1997. The Sussexes have fought a string of court battles with British newspapers, including two continuing cases related to phone hacking allegations. The publisher of The Mail on Sunday accepted that it breached the duchess's privacy by publishing a private letter.

An alleged male prowler, 29, was arrested near the Sussexes' home in Montecito, California, at about 2am on Monday.

# I gathered evidence for Prince Harry, says hacker

**David Brown**

A convicted hacker and self-confessed "professional liar" described yesterday how he was helping the Duke of Sussex to pursue legal cases against the media.

Graham Johnson, giving evidence on behalf of Prince Harry, told the High Court that he was assisting the duke's lawyers by gathering evidence of alleged unlawful activities.

There was allegedly a criminal investigation and a report to the solicitors' professional body into bribes and the use of false evidence in Harry's claim, the court was told.

Johnson, a former investigations editor for the Sunday Mirror, received a suspended jail sentence after admitting voicemail hacking in 2014. He told the court that he now exposed "organised crime" in the media.

A document recording the costs of Harry's lawyers in the case against the publisher of the Mirror Group Newspapers shows that Johnson was involved in 111 meetings or calls over a period of three and a half years. The journalist said he was not officially part of the legal team in Harry's present trial but was involved in a separate claim against the publisher of the Daily Mail.

Johnson has paid thousands of pounds for information from private investigators, two of whom are due to give evidence on Harry's behalf about their alleged work for the media.

He told the court he had paid a "small amount" to Danno Hanks, a Los Angeles-based private investigator. Johnson could not recall how much he paid to Steve Whittamore, a British private investigator convicted in 2004 of breaching the Data Protection Act.

Johnson admitted agreeing to pay Gavin Burrows, another private investigator, £5,000 a month to "provide evidence" in relation to a book about his activities for the media. He said he had helped to write a chapter in a book by Tina Brown, the former editor of Vanity Fair, about unlawful information-gathering that referred to Burrows.

The pair had a "massive bust-up", and Burrows alleged on social media that the duke's lawyers and researchers had "exaggerated, embellished, doctored evidence" and there were "bribes", the court was told. Johnson said: "I don't know if there is a criminal investigation or an inquiry by the Law Society."

The court was told that Johnson and Evan Harris, a former MP and former director of the Hacked Off campaign who is now a paralegal for Harry, signed a £5,000 contract to buy invoices from a "blagger" called Christine Hart, who allegedly obtained medical records for journalists.

Harry is due to give evidence next month.

# Starmer says he would revisit

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

Britain needs a closer trading relationship with the European Union, to escape its "doom-loop of low growth and high taxes", Sir Keir Starmer has said, as he pledged to reopen Boris Johnson's Brexit trade deal with the bloc.

In a speech in London, Starmer told business leaders that in government Labour would "fix" the weaknesses in the current trade and co-operation agreement to give UK firms greater access to the European market.

He insisted that this could be done without the UK rejoining either the European single market or customs union, which he claimed would create more uncertainty to business.

"If we want economic growth we've got to have a closer trading relationship and that's what we will aspire to do when we come into government," he said. "We need to … reduce barriers and we can do that without being part of the single market or the customs union."

Starmer said Rishi Sunak's deal with the EU over the future of Northern Ireland, which was backed by Labour, had increased the scope for co-operation between London and Brussels. He said that it could help to solve problems facing sectors such as the car industry, which warned yesterday of job losses as a result of provisions in the deal. "We do need to improve that deal. That doesn't mean reversing the decision and going back into the EU, but the deal we've got, it was said to be oven-ready, it wasn't even half-baked," he said.

Starmer also opened the door to a more flexible migration policy, saying that if a Labour government was to achieve its target of having the highest GDP growth in the G7 it would need "strategic planning". "We shouldn't do anything that makes your job more difficult than it already is," he told the British Chamber of Commerce. "Therefore we have to have some short-term things in relation to the gaps that we've got in our labour market. We knew that leaving the EU meant that we were likely to get some of these gaps. We should have planned for it."

Alongside his plans to increase homebuilding, Starmer used his speech to pledge that a future Labour government would ease planning hurdles for businesses and make growth the central mission of his party in government. "It's obvious to me that the root cause of so many of our challenges is a lack of economic growth," he said. "Growth is higher wages. Growth is stronger communities. Growth is thriving businesses. It's more vibrant high streets, less poverty, more opportunity, warmer homes, healthier food, better jobs."

In echoes of Liz Truss's pledge to simplify the planning process, Starmer said the UK would not be "serious" about raising productivity and improving the supply-side capacity of the economy "without a plan for the wind farms, the laboratories, the warehouses and the homes this country so desperately needs".

He said: "It doesn't work for Britain, it doesn't work for business, it doesn't work for growth — and I won't accept it. There's nothing that reeks more of decline than the idea that this country no longer knows how to build things."

Starmer told The Times yesterday that he would make Labour the party of housebuilding by easing planning restrictions, including on the green belt. He said that the Tories had killed off the dream of home ownership by dropping mandatory local housebuilding targets after a revolt by backbench Tory MPs.

But Michael Gove, the levelling-up secretary, said that three quarters of the shadow cabinet had blocked developments in their own constituencies in the past. In a letter to the Labour leader, he said: "Your shadow cabinet colleagues with constituencies in England regularly oppose development, including in their own areas. At the last count more than three quarters of them had been blockers not builders. Is this not a case of do as I say but not as I do?"

● Andy Burnham has accused "insecure" aides to Sir Keir Starmer of seeking to undermine his work as mayor of Greater Manchester with negative briefings (writes Patrick Maguire).

In an interview with Times Radio, Burnham accused Labour's leadership in Westminster of failing to support him. "Whenever I go out there with something positive, the negative Westminster briefing machine somehow flicks into gear," Burnham said. "All that I'd say is leave me alone. You know, I've been out there being supportive of the party and working for a majority Labour government as everyone is."

Aides to Starmer privately believe Burnham, a former New Labour special adviser and cabinet minister, has designs on the leadership.

**Starmer's bold stance on new homes is to be applauded, leading article, page 29**



Oliver Dowden faced Angela Rayner at prime minister's questions, calling her and Keir Starmer "the Phil and Holly of British

## Hunt: Most employees should be back in office

Katie Prescott
Technology Business Editor

The chancellor has said that the "default" place for work should be in the office, unless there is a good reason to be elsewhere.

Speaking at the British Chambers of Commerce annual conference in London, Jeremy Hunt jumped into the debate about working from home, saying: "There is nothing like sitting around the table, seeing people face to face, for developing team spirit."

The former entrepreneur even said that home working could be bad for business: "I worry about the loss of creativity when people are permanently working from home and not having those water cooler moments where they bounce ideas off each other."

Since pandemic lockdowns revolutionised the way of working for so many, there has been a tussle within companies about how to juggle their employees' time in the office with requests for working remotely.

Disney, KPMG and Amazon are among the major companies asking staff to return to their workplace more frequently. It is not always a popular move. In a petition responding to Amazon's demands for workers to come into the office three days a week, staff said: "Many employees planned for a life where their employer wouldn't force them to return to the office."

Hunt acknowledged there were scenarios where flexibility brought opportunities that did not previously exist: "One example is childcare. Another is mobility issues. A decade ago, there was a presumption that you wouldn't be able to do lots of jobs."

However, he said: "I think we will get to a point where the default is, with the exception of specific categories of work like, for example, call centre work, the default will be you work in the office unless there's a good reason not to be."

## Quentin Letts

## Stand-in does stand-up with Phil and Holly gag

Political Sketch



**Churchill had Attlee, Thatcher had Whitelaw and Blair had that erratic but unstoppable pugilist Prescott. Sunak has Oliver "Olive" Dowden.**

**With big, butch Rishi away in Japan, Olive (as he is nicknamed in Westminster) sashayed into the Commons to take prime minister's questions. It was his debut. Up went a cheer, louder than expected. Olive did well not to jump and clutch his chest. He was accompanied by the chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, who was in the cabinet five years before Dowden even became an MP.**

**Across the table glowered Angela Rayner, biting the air with those teeth. South African police dogs are less daunting. As the seconds ticked towards noon, Dowden kept glancing at those teeth. Gulp.**

**Speaker Hoyle began the bout and off shot Dowden, tremendously loud. Labour frontbenchers' hairdos were blown backwards by his over-projection. Hoyle, who bends an ear towards an amplifier in the side of his chair, recoiled, part-deafened. Behind the scenes, sound engineers fiddled with volume knobs before the Commons was scored by screeching feedback.**

**An early question from Craig Mackinlay (C), the David Jason-soundalike from South Thanet, concerned the sale of allegedly fake postage stamps.**

**Dowden said that if fraud had been perpetrated, police should investigate.**

**But inside his pumping heart, did he wonder if he, too, was a counterfeit?**

**Rayner rose. It was one step to the dispatch box yet somehow she made it a swagger. She rolled her tongue in her cheeks, leaned on the box like the gunslinger in a Wild West saloon, and chuckled, menacingly. Dowden was the third deputy PM she had faced. Her prey gave a smile of damp-trousered terror. Imagine Charles Hawtrey playing a Christian facing the lions at the Circus Maximus. Rayner tore into him, asking a clever question about whether or not he was going to take the blame for the local election results. Dowden, in a near-falsetto**

# Brexit deal to boost economy

JESSICA TAYLOR/UK PARLIAMENT



politics — lovey-dovey on the surface but at each others' throats off-camera"

**voice, squeaked that it "really was a pleasure" to see Rayner in her place.**

**Now the remarkable happened. He cracked a joke and it worked. He was surprised, given Sir Keir Starmer's plotting for coalition government, not to be facing the Labour leader's reportedly preferred choice for deputy PM, Sir Ed Davey of the Lib Dems. MPs' mouths dropped open with astonishment.**

**Olive had just harpooned Angela. Then he did it again. Rayner, who is normally pretty good at PMQs, tried a second question and it went on far too long. She lost the house. Dowden observed that relations between Rayner and Starmer were strained. "It's all lovey-dovey on the surface. They lay it on for the cameras but once they're off, they're at each others' throats. They're the Phil and Holly of British politics." This drew another great bark of laughter, from all sides. A decent gag had been made all the funnier by the incongruity of this quivering, string-vested, treble-fluting weakling upending the terrifying Rayner.**

**That was the best of Dowden's day. As the session continued, his energy levels sagged and the voice seemed to soar even higher. The Scots Nats' deputy leader, Mhairi Black, sounded like Henry Kissinger in comparison.**

**Hunt seemed to lose interest in proceedings and busied himself studying a page in his pocket diary. Dowden produced a couple of prepared zingers that had the house groaning. One, in reference to Starmer's plans to let foreigners vote in general elections, was that "Conservatives will stop the boats, Labour will rig the votes!" Another was about a member of the train drivers' union sitting on Labour's national executive committee.**

**"They're literally letting their union masters drive their policies!" Silence. Neither worked.**

**But the day had gone a lot better than it might have done. Our quivering Christian had avoided being devoured alive. He had even made the lioness look a little mangy.**

**As Dowden tip-toed floatily out of the chamber, he was clapped on the back by delighted — and amazed — colleagues.**

## Johnson 'wanted to punch Macron over Ukraine war'

**Oliver Wright** Policy Editor

Boris Johnson found President Macron's attempt to persuade Vladimir Putin not to invade Ukraine "nauseating" and once threatened to "punch his lights out", his former head of communications claims today.

In an article for The Times, Guto Harri says Johnson became increasingly frustrated by Macron's stance on the conflict and his public criticism of the UK in the early days of the war.

In particular, Johnson was incensed by the French president's claims that the UK was doing too little to help Ukrainian refugees fleeing the conflict.

Macron had used a meeting of European leaders to accuse Britain of making the visa application system for fleeing Ukrainians too tough, and suggested that they deserved to be "better treated".

At the time the government tried to play down the row, but Harri reveals that behind the scenes Johnson was "furious". He writes: "When the man in the Élysée criticised the UK for overcomplicating migration, Johnson was furious, promising to 'punch Macron's lights out'. He didn't, but he pushed and pushed to ensure a unity of purpose across Europe, Nato and the G7 that proved formidable."

Harri also says that although Johnson had wanted to avoid a conflict he was deeply uncomfortable about Macron's visit to Moscow to try to persuade the Russian leader to reconsider. "Had he pulled it off, we'd have all been grateful, but the odds never looked good, and Boris found the sight of him at the Kremlin 'nauseating'," Harri writes. He adds that Downing Street believed that an American statesman privately cautioned against allowing the West to be dragged into another "shitty little European war".

The revelations are in the second edition of Harri's podcast *Unprecedented*, about his time working for Johnson in Downing Street.

Harri was on the call between Johnson and President Zelensky of Ukraine within hours of the war breaking out, and was witness to their relationship over the early months of the conflict. He says the men had more in common than many thought — both being unconventional politicians whose power of oratory had helped to propel them to office.

"Volodymyr had been a national treasure, prone to making people laugh and smile, a comedian, entertainer and actor who often took the piss out of politics, before being elected to the highest office," he writes. "In different circumstances, Boris also defied the chattering classes to become prime minister."

He also reveals that it was Zelensky who tried to cheer Johnson up when he was forced out of office, saying he would always be remembered in Ukraine for his support and for rallying other countries to provide western weapons that allowed Ukraine to hold out against Russian forces. "When his own parliamentary party had hounded him out of Downing Street, it was a comfort to place the last call to Kyiv and be told: 'You're a hero, Boris.'"

Harri has previously claimed that Johnson "squared up" to the King over his opposition to the Rwanda deportation scheme, and described Sue Gray, who investigated lockdown parties at No 10, as "Psycho Sue".

A source close to Johnson said they did not recognise any of the accounts in the podcast. "Mr Johnson has had no part in this podcast or in its contents," they said. "We would never comment on these matters and Mr Johnson deplores any attempt to do so."



**Boris Johnson's fury has been revealed by a former aide**

**Killing Boris Johnson film shown at Cannes, page 13**
**Kremlin propagandists assassinated, page 30**

## Humour secured bond with Zelensky

**Guto Harri**
**Comment**

It's not a call you easily forget. Russian troops had crossed the border into Ukrainian territory. A superpower was invading a free and democratic neighbour.

I was woken by a Downing Street official to be patched through to one of the most moving conversations I've witnessed. On the line with the prime minister was a calm but breathless president who has defined modern leadership.

Volodymyr Zelensky was on the ground in his capital, Kyiv. So too were Putin's special forces, on the hunt for him. Zelensky knew that the chances that either he — or his country — could hold out were slim, but made clear he was determined to do everything to beat the odds.

For his part Boris told him he was prepared to do everything it took to support him. "Let's hope this is not the last time we speak," Zelensky said as the line went dead.

The latest episode of Global Player's *Unprecedented* podcast captures the moment when Johnson became Zelensky's confidant and most determined foreign advocate.

In some ways the two men had much in common even before the war. Volodymyr had been a national treasure, prone to making people laugh and smile, a comedian, entertainer and actor who often took the piss out of politics, before being elected to the highest office. In different circumstances, Boris also defied the chattering classes to become prime minister and deliver spectacular electoral success.

There was also another critical tool in the arsenal deployed by both men — wit. Boris has always used humour as Mary Poppins prescribed "a spoonful of sugar", because it would "help the medicine go down". A witty turn of phrase makes difficult politics more digestible, memorable and resonant. So too did Volodymyr.

We all clocked that Zelensky was staying put with his people when he told the US president: "I don't need a ride. I need more ammunition."

In private the humour could be dark, deployed to defuse the tension caused by the hideous reality of the conversations. At other times it was bizarre and hilarious. Early conversations after the initial attack were heavily focused on Nlaws, Swedish-designed missiles made in Belfast, which proved extremely effective at taking out Russian tanks.

"We love the N-loves," Zelensky kept saying, pronouncing the "w" as a "v". Initially confused, we got used to hearing the word "love" in the context of lethal weaponry and the former comedian took pleasure in telling us how his troops sang "love songs" as they fired them.

But beyond this, the relationship was built on Zelensky's knowledge that Boris was committed to the defence of Ukraine's sovereignty.

Other leaders were looking for a third way, another accommodation with Putin along the lines of the deal struck when he took a bite out of Crimea nearly a decade ago. One rumour doing the diplomatic rounds was that a senior US statesman had cautioned against being dragged into another "shitty little European war".

President Macron went to Moscow in search, he said, of peace. Had he pulled it off, we'd have all been grateful, but the odds never looked good, and Boris found the sight of him at the Kremlin "nauseating".

Later, tensions would spill over badly over sanctions, energy and refugees. And when the man in the Élysée criticised the UK for overcomplicating migration, Johnson was furious, promising to "punch Macron's lights out". He didn't, but he pushed and pushed to ensure a unity of purpose across Europe, Nato and the G7 that proved formidable.

Everyone involved saw Johnson at his best: courageous, clear about the stakes, resolute on the outcome and succinct in communicating what was needed and why it mattered. "Putin must fail", a phrase he coined at the start, became "Putin will fail", and his faith in his Ukrainian friend never wavered. Indeed when his own parliamentary party had hounded him out of Downing Street, it was a comfort to place the last call to Kyiv and be told: "You're a hero, Boris."

"No, you're the hero, Volodymyr, everyone in my country loves you."

"Boris, everyone in my country loves you."

*Episode 2 of* Unprecedented *will be available on Global Player from today*

# Trade deal could help keep the peace

STEFAN ROUSSEAU/PA



**Rishi Sunak on his way to Japan for his first G7 summit as prime minister. He said the new accord with Japan would increase military and economic co-operation. His wife, Akshata Murty, flew with him**

**Henry Zeffman**
Associate Political Editor, Tokyo

Rishi Sunak will sign a new pact with Japan today designed to contain Chinese aggression.

At the start of a four-day visit to the country for his first G7 summit of world leaders, the prime minister will hold talks with Fumio Kishida, his Japanese counterpart, on "protecting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific" amid escalating concerns about Beijing's sabre-rattling.

The "Hiroshima accord" envisages the two countries working together to protect supply chains in the event that China invades Taiwan. They will begin a "semiconductors partnership", aimed at "bolstering supply chain resilience".

British officials fear that the economic consequences of a conflict in the South China Sea could be catastrophic, crippling supply chains and leading to Covid-style shortages of vital imports.

Industry leaders have been urged to draw up contingency plans on where to obtain goods such as medical supplies, components for consumer goods and most notably semiconductors, which are widely used including in phones and advanced weapon systems.

The agreement will also incorporate agreements on defence, trade and investment, science and climate change.

Sunak will travel first this morning to Tokyo, where he will visit a naval base and address leaders of businesses investing in the UK. He will then fly to Hiroshima for the summit, becoming the first British prime minister to visit the site of the Second World War atomic bombing.

Downing Street said that the historic moment would serve as "a sombre reminder of the human cost of all-out war".

As he flew to Japan, Sunak said: "It is a privilege to be visiting Tokyo and Hiroshima at this historic moment in the United Kingdom's relationship with Japan. Prime minister Kishida and I are closely aligned on the importance of protecting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific and defending our values, including free and fair trade.

"The Hiroshima accord will see us step up co-operation between our armed forces, grow our economies together and develop our world-leading science and technology expertise. It marks an exciting next phase in the UK and Japan's flourishing partnership."

Other leaders present at the summit include President Biden, President Macron, Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor, and Justin Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister.

Topics under discussion include Russia's war with Ukraine, climate change and the global economy.

Sunak said that at the summit the leaders would be "reflecting" on the status of the "Indo-Pacific", on "the importance of that region economically but then also from a security perspective — specifically with regard to China".

The prime minister added that the leaders would be "making sure that we as G7 allies are aligned in our approach to protecting ourselves against the risks and challenges that China poses".

Sunak also suggested he would consider imposing further export controls on China, insisting he was "very aligned" with Biden on policy towards Beijing. "In broad terms, absolutely that will be something we'll be talking about," he said.

The US has been lobbying other G7 countries to limit outward investment to China in certain sensitive sectors such as artificial intelligence.

Sunak signalled he was open to the idea. "The US is still formulating their thinking on that space," he said. "We're engaged in a dialogue with them. We're also doing policy thinking on that particular area. I don't think we can expect the US to have at this summit a fully formed view, they're still in the process of developing it.

The prime minister's official spokesman said that the summit was taking place "at a pivotal moment in the war in Ukraine and at a time of growing competition in the Indo-Pacific", and that the visit represents "a crucial opportunity to build our relationship with Japan, already one of the UK's strongest and most important partners".

**Western unity is about to be severely tested, Iain Martin, page 27**

# Sunak rejects Truss's stance on Taiwan

**Henry Zeffman**

Rishi Sunak has promised to maintain the UK's "longstanding" approach of only having "unofficial" ties to Taiwan, despite pressure from Liz Truss to adopt a firmer stance.

In a speech in Taiwan, Truss said that the West "can't believe a word" China says and suggested that European leaders were being "irresponsible" in their approach to a possible invasion.

Asked whether his predecessor's trip to Taiwan was helpful, Sunak said: "I was busy yesterday, so I haven't actually seen the details of it. I can tell you that our approach to Taiwan is longstanding and it hasn't changed.

"And again, it's an approach that is completely aligned in substance and in language with all our allies."

The prime minister added: "I think that we have a very strong, unofficial relationship with Taiwan as our allies do. I think that our position is united and aligned with our allies, and will continue."

Sunak was speaking to reporters on board his plane to the G7 summit in Hiroshima. He said that the UK had "put China firmly on the agenda" when hosting the summit in 2021 and that it would be a focus of meetings over the coming days as well.

"We have a strong and increasing footprint in the security of the Indo-Pacific region," he said. "We have a strong interest in a free and open Indo-Pacific. We do not believe in any change in the status quo by force or coercion. And we will continue to work with our allies in making sure that that's what happens."

China accused Truss of performing a "dangerous political stunt" after she launched an attack on Beijing during a visit to Taiwan.

In a statement issued by the Chinese embassy in London, Beijing accused Truss of "conniving" with "secessionist forces" in Taiwan. The embassy suggested that the visit could have repercussions for Sunak.

It said: "Liz Truss's recent visit to Taiwan is a dangerous political show which will do nothing but harm to the UK. Any violation of the one-China principle will have serious consequences for China-UK relations.

"We urge the relevant British politician to correct her wrongdoing, stop making political shows with the Taiwan question, and stop conniving at and supporting 'Taiwan independence' secessionist forces. Otherwise, she will only further expose herself as a failed politician and get more backlash from the Chinese people."

The Chinese Communist Party regards Taiwan as part of Chinese territory and protests loudly whenever foreign politicians visit the island. It has vowed to reunify with Taiwan, by force if necessary, to achieve "national rejuvenation".

# Hiroshima memorial beckons for PM's wife

**Henry Zeffman**

Akshata Murty has accompanied Rishi Sunak to Japan on her first overseas trip as the prime minister's spouse.

Murty, 43, will take part in a programme of activities with other spouses of world leaders as part of the G7 summit in Hiroshima.

The programme is likely to include visits to a shrine and to the peace park created as a memorial to those killed by the atomic bomb dropped on the city by the US in 1945.

Other spouses who may attend include Brigitte Macron, the wife of the French president, and Jill Biden, America's first lady. Murty and Biden have already developed a rapport: when the first lady represented the US at the coronation the pair attended a London gym class together. Last month Murty accompanied her husband to Belfast to mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday agreement, meeting Bill and Hillary Clinton, and Sir Tony Blair. She was also at the coronation concert at Windsor with Sunak, posting a photograph on Instagram with the caption: "Not your average date night."

Prime ministers' spouses are not always required to attend summits. Carrie Johnson joined Boris Johnson at some but not all, while Hugh O'Leary, Liz Truss's husband, did not join her on her sole foreign trip as prime minister.

Murty's wealth has occasionally attracted controversy. She is the daughter of NR Narayana Murthy, who founded the IT company Infosys, of which Murty owns 0.9 per cent.

Sunak and Murty's wealth was estimated last year by the Sunday Times rich list at £730 million.

# Trolls who encourage suicide face five years' jail

**Jonathan Ames** Legal Editor
**Matt Dathan** Home Editor

Trolls who hide behind internet anonymity to encourage others to harm themselves will face up to five years in jail under plans to strengthen the Online Safety Bill.

Ministers said that additions to the proposed legislation would make it a crime to encourage someone to cause serious harm, regardless of whether victims injured themselves.

The change comes six years after the death of Molly Russell, 14, who was found to have looked at thousands of posts about self-harm and suicide.

The offence will add to laws that make it illegal to encourage or assist someone to take their own life. Under the bill it would be an offence to encourage a person to starve themselves or not to take prescribed medication. Prosecutors will have only to prove that communication was intended to encourage or assist behaviour amounting to grievous bodily harm, including injuries such as broken bones or permanent scarring.

Officials at the Ministry of Justice said the offence would apply even when the perpetrator did not know the person they were targeting.

Alex Chalk, the justice secretary, said the strengthened law would "put an end to abhorrent trolling that risks serious self-harm or life-changing injuries". He added that it would "send a clear message to these cowardly trolls that their behaviour is not acceptable".

LEON NEAL/GETTY IMAGES



**Getting into the party spirit** Alexandra Palace in north London will celebrate its 150th anniversary on May 27 with musical shows, film screenings and a food fair

# World set to breach 1.5C climate limit

**Adam Vaughan** Environment Editor

For the first time in history, the world is more likely than not to be 1.5C warmer in the next five years than it was during the industrial revolution, according to a new study.

Nearly 200 governments promised in the Paris agreement eight years ago to hold temperature rises to 1.5C, to stave off the worst effects of climate change. But there is now a two in three chance of temporarily exceeding 1.5C between 2023 and 2027, scientists at the Met Office and UN found. Just a year ago, the chance was one in two. The increase is largely due to the continuing carbon emissions that humans have pumped into the atmosphere.

The milestone would not mean that efforts to rein in climate change had failed. The threshold is considered by scientists to have been passed only if sustained for two decades, given year to year variations in temperatures. But it would be a symbolic sign of how humanity has changed the climate after 11,650 years or so of benign temperatures, since the end of the last Ice Age, that allowed civilisations to flourish.

Greenhouse gas emissions from cars, power stations and other human activities have warmed Earth by 1.1C since the pre-industrial period.

Professor Petteri Taalas, secretary-general of the UN World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), said hitting 1.5C would not mean "we will permanently exceed it". But Taalas said he was "sounding the alarm".

Professor Adam Scaife, of the Met Office Hadley Centre, said: "If we have one year at 1.5C, it doesn't mean we've broken the Paris threshold. But for the first time in history, it's more likely than not that we'll exceed that level for a year in the next five years. So it shows we're getting very, very close to the Paris threshold."

The Met Office said there was a 98 per cent chance of one of the next five years being the warmest on record. The hottest year was 2016, at 1.28C above pre-industrial levels.

The next five years are projected to be anywhere between 1.1C and 1.8C higher. "This 1.1C to 1.8C number is a combination of human impacts of human activities, primarily greenhouse gases being emitted, and also some natural variability," said Leon Hermanson, a senior scientist at the Hadley Centre.

Experts said there was a strong chance that the warmest year record would be broken next year, because of the likelihood of a weather pattern known as El Niño developing. The phenomenon is marked by weakening trade winds and higher ocean temperatures in the eastern Pacific, and can push global temperatures higher.

The WMO and Met Office expect the Arctic to experience warming at three times the global average in the next five years. "This implies sea ice melting more, a continuation of the trends we've seen, perhaps shipping lanes opening up and impacts on global trade," Hermanson said. The UK is among northern European countries that are projected to see wetter than usual summers between now and 2027. The WMO's Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update report found an increased chance of above average rainfall in northern European summers. Indonesia, the Amazon and central America have a greater chance of lower rainfall than normal.

Countries are due to meet for talks in Dubai in November to discuss efforts to curb climate change. Carbon emissions have risen since the 2015 Paris agreement. The rate of growth has slowed in recent years but the trajectory is far short of the 43 per cent cut in emissions from 2019-30 that scientists say is needed to stay permanently under 1.5C.

Professor Chris Hilson, director of Reading University's centre for climate and justice, said that nearing the threshold was not an excuse to stop emissions cuts to focus on measures to adapt to a warmer world, such as building flood defences. "It's a depressing piece of news. Some will take this to mean it is too late to do anything to prevent significant warming and will instead look to abandon efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions, preferring to focus on adaptation instead," he said.

The government reiterated its commitment to meeting the UK's legally binding target of net-zero emissions by 2050.

In the near-term, Taalas said the world needed to prepare for El Niño. "This will have far-reaching repercussions for health, food security, water management and the environment."

## Behind the story

**We are on the brink of a new climate. That's the message from Met Office scientists, who found that there was a 66 per cent chance of Earth's average temperature rising 1.5C above pre-industrial levels by 2027 (Adam Vaughan writes).**

**It does not sound much, until you consider that today's global average temperature is only 4C to 5C warmer than the last Ice Age.**

**Importantly, a growing body of science has found big differences between a world that heats up by 1.5C, 2C or worse — from how high sea levels rise to the frequency and extremity of heatwaves.**

**That's why 196 countries signed up to the Paris agreement in 2015, committing governments to keeping temperature rises below 2C and to "pursue efforts" for 1.5C.**

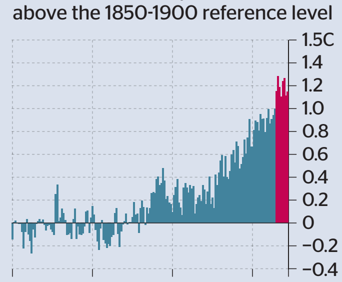
**Leaders also signed up to producing plans every five years for how much their nations would cut emissions, to hit those temperature goals. The UK upgraded its plan before the Cop26 talks in Glasgow, promising a 68 per cent reduction by 2030, against 1990 levels. It is one of the world's most ambitious plans.**

**This November, at UN climate negotiations in the United Arab Emirates, we will find out how much of an impact the Paris agreement has had. Cop28 in Dubai will have the results of the first "global stocktake", an assessment of progress on the promises made in the 2015 accord. The fact that we are on the verge of exceeding 1.5C should act as a wake-up call that emissions plans have not been enough.**

**The emissions cuts needed to stay under 1.5C — 43 per cent below 2019 levels by 2030 — would require a colossal effort. But countries in Dubai should still use the target as their north star, even if it looks out of reach. Every fraction of a degree matters for how habitable Earth will be in future.**

## Getting warmer

Global surface temperature increase above the 1850-1900 reference level




Source: World Meteorological Organisation

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# ENO rings the changes with slimmed-down season after cuts

Poppy Koronka

English National Opera has announced a pared-back season for this year, confirming the postponement of the final stages of Wagner's *Ring* cycle after Arts Council England withdrew its annual subsidy.

The forthcoming season constitutes several revivals, including David Alden's award-winning production of Britten's *Peter Grimes*, Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe* and Verdi's *La Traviata*, among other favourites such as *The Magic Flute* and *The Barber of Seville*.

Newer productions include *7 Deaths of Maria Callas*, by the performance artist Maria Ambramovic, which explores the life, work and death of the operatic soprano, in a UK premiere.

The *Ring* cycle is notably absent. ENO was staging Wagner's epic work with New York's Metropolitan Opera companybut the company announced in January that the later stages of the *Ring* — including *Siegfried*, which was to be performed this season — would be postponed, citing funding concerns.

"The delay in confirming our financial status has meant that our plans for the season ahead will inevitably have to change, including … our current *Ring* cycle, in partnership with the Met, which was due to continue with a new production of *Siegfried* next season," an ENO spokesman said.

The first two stages of the *Ring* cycle were met with mixed reviews, *Die Walküre* in 2021 and *Das Rheingold* in 2023.

In November Arts Council England withdrew ENO's £12.5 million annual subsidy and ordered the company to relocate from the capital as part of the government's levelling-up agenda. In January the council announced an £11.4 million grant to allow ENO to fulfil this season's programme while helping it to prepare for relocating in 2026.

"This past season has been challenging … but also incredibly rewarding with sell-out, critically acclaimed productions," Annilese Miskimmon, ENO's artistic director, said. "We have curated this season to delight our ENO regulars and newcomers alike."

# Anger over No 10 parties finds an outlet at Cannes

Constance Kampfner Cannes

In a dingy London flat, a young man called Kaz hatches a plan to murder Boris Johnson. First he toys with the idea of a knife, slashing it across the face of a blond, floppy-haired mask for practice, then he graduates to a gun.

But why is he so angry? His mother, who had severe depression, committed suicide after feeling isolated during lockdown. "Meanwhile, at No 10, our prime minister was having private Christmas parties," Kaz says, staring down a webcam, an icy chill in his eyes.

*Killing Boris Johnson* is a dark meditation on the consequences of the parties scandal on ordinary people.

The short film is the only British student-made production selected for the Cannes Film Festival, where it will be competing next week for the La Cinef award.

For Musa Alderson-Clarke, 30, its writer and director, the story is a personal one; his mother committed suicide during the winter lockdown.

"She used to love Christmas and we didn't have an opportunity to be with her," he said.

"I'm not saying that's what caused that to happen. But it's these cherished moments that we were deprived of and when someone passes, you really think about what could have been."

Though the film is not based on his own life — "obviously our main character takes it way too far" — Alderson-Clarke said it had been inspired by it. Mainly, however, the film-maker wanted to convey the "helplessness" that people felt at the time in the face of politicians' "arrogance".

"There is that feeling that people in power are just going to continue making the same mistakes. For them, it's just leaving a job, but for the people who are left with the fallout from that … it's real pain."

That feeling drives Kaz to fantasise about and then plot his attack on Johnson, who he learns will be visiting a primary school outside the city.

"People's lives were completely altered by the lockdowns. It's important to mark that time because it's easy to forget. I think that's art's responsibility."

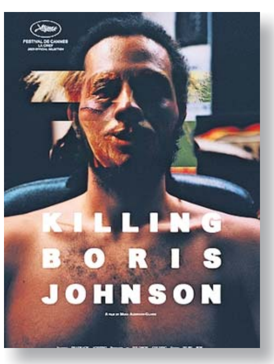
Solomon Golding, 30, the producer, said it was also art's job to create "outlets for people to voice frustrations".

Commenting on the film's title, he said: "There are some people who feel it's really inappropriate. But the film isn't about trying to radicalise anyone into wanting to incite violence, and anyone who would watch it would understand that.

"It's the idea of a person and what that person represents and the system they represent, as opposed to the individual."

Violence, Golding said, came from not having "other avenues of expression".

Created at the National Film and Television School in Buckinghamshire, *Killing Boris Johnson* is one of 16 films selected for the competition from more than 2,000 submissions. It will have its premiere at Cannes on May 24.




**The producers of the British film say they are not trying to incite violence**

DOUG PETERS/PA



## Depp: My critics are anonymous potatoes

**Johnny Depp has likened people who have criticised his comeback at Cannes to "anonymous mashed potatoes" (Constance Kampfner writes).**

**The 2023 film festival opened with the actor's first big film since a jury largely found in his favour in his legal battle with his ex-wife Amber Heard last year.**

**Depp made a rare public appearance on the red carpet, where he was greeted by cheering fans. He plays Louis XV in *Jeanne Du Barry*, directed by and starring the French actress Maïwenn. It is Depp's first leading role in three years after he was fired from *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore* after Heard's accusations of sexual assault, which he denied.**

**During a press conference, Depp said: "When you're asked to resign from a film because of something that is merely a bunch of vowels and consonants floating in the air, yeah, you feel a bit boycotted. Do I feel boycotted now? Not at all, I don't feel boycotted by Hollywood because I don't think about Hollywood."**

**Asked how he felt about the controversy surrounding his presence at Cannes, Depp replied: "What if one day they did not allow me to go to McDonald's for life because somewhere there would be 39 angry people watching me eat a Big Mac on a loop? Who are they? Why do they care? Some species or tower of mashed potatoes covered in light from a computer screen? Anonymous."**

**Maïwenn, who plays the mistress of Louis XV, said she had cast Depp because she "wanted to be loyal to my desire".**

Johnny Depp at a photocall for Jeanne du Barry in Cannes with the French director Maïwenn, who co-stars in the film

**The ageing comeback kid, Times2**

# From 12 Years a Slave to a jarring 4 hours about global unease

**Film** Kevin Maher

**Occupied City**
Cannes film festival
★★☆☆☆

A labour of love and an invaluable historical document is ultimately undone by the punishing running time of this mega-documentary from Steve McQueen, the Oscar-winning director of *12 Years a Slave*. It was conceived in 2005, when McQueen's wife, Bianca Stigter, first published *Atlas of an Occupied City, Amsterdam 1940-1945*, featuring wartime testimonies and insights into the murder of more than 60,000 of the city's Jews.

It wasn't until Covid arrived in 2020 that McQueen, now Amsterdam-based, found the impetus to capture the spirit of Stigter's book. He spent the first pandemic year filming at 130 city-wide locations, often exteriors only, and used those images as a template over which to run a narration of the source material.

The result is initially fascinating, as the tourist-friendly façades of contemporary canal-side Amsterdam are revealed to hide ghastly secrets. The narrator, Melanie Hyams, with calming, dulcet delivery, recounts the shootings, massacres, the murder of children, the incessant beatings, the deportations and, most eerie of all, the suicides of formerly contented middle-class Jewish residents who saw only imminent death and Nazi evil when German tanks came rolling over the city's Berlage bridge in May 1940.

For the first hour, at least, this is gripping material. The repetition of format, however, long before the fourth and final hour (running time is 246 minutes), becomes deadening. There is no other string to McQueen's bow. It's just location in video, testimony in audio, repeat. The film has been compared here in Cannes with Max Ophüls's *The Sorrow and the Pity*, or even Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah*. But these epic documentaries were driven by personal biographies and the pained expressions of fragile human beings caught on camera. There's something, instead, remote and distant about the lack of personality here.

The commentary on modernity, meanwhile, is curious and contentious. The audio accounts of Nazi malevolence are often played over images of anti-Covid measures in action. Descriptions of Jewish arrests and deportations are intercut with footage from a "Freedom Protest" against anti-Covid restrictions. Stories of Nazi brutality are followed by shots of police dogs facing anti-lockdown marchers. And accounts of Jews forced to wear yellow stars are followed by images of young Amsterdammers flashing their vaccine passports at dour-faced officials.

McQueen has said that there is no deliberate messaging here, and that the film is articulating a sense of "global unease". Yet the comparison is upfront and explicit, and it seems a slight against the immensity of the Holocaust to sandwich it so crudely up against the pandemic.

*In cinemas later this year*

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



**Dresses to impress** The first UK exhibition to focus on the contemporary sari opens at the Design Museum in London tomorrow. The Offbeat Sari runs until September

# Parkinson's risk cut for fitter women

**Kaya Burgess** Science Reporter

Women who regularly exercise are 25 per cent less likely to develop Parkinson's disease than those who are inactive, a study suggests.

Physical activity in the study included walking, cycling and playing sport, as well as gardening, housework and regularly climbing stairs.

Scientists at the Inserm Research Centre in Paris said previous studies had found that active men were 21 per cent less likely than inactive men to develop Parkinson's but there was scant research into whether the same held true for women.

Their study, published in the journal Neurology, examined 95,354 female participants, with an average age of 49, in a long-running French study. None had a diagnosis for Parkinson's at the start of the study. They were followed for three decades, during which time 1,074 women developed the disease.

During the study they were asked to complete several questionnaires about their physical activity. They were asked whether they walked less than 500 metres a day, between 500 and 2,000 metres or more than 2,000 metres; and whether they climbed more than five flights of stairs each day, between one and four flights a day or no flights. They were also asked how many hours a week they spent on "light" and "heavy" housework, how many hours of "moderate" or "vigorous" sporting activity they participated in and how many hours they spent walking and cycling.

Researchers then looked for correlations between activity and the risk of developing Parkinson's. The women were divided into five groups, from most to least active, and researchers found a "25 per cent lower incidence" of Parkinson's in the most active group compared with the least active.

The results of the study suggest that a lack of physical activity may increase both the risk of Parkinson's and the speed of the disease's progression. Previous research has shown, however, that the link may also operate in reverse, as the early symptoms of Parkinson's can lead to a decrease in physical activity among sufferers in the ten years leading up to diagnosis.

Researchers assessed participants' exercise levels up to 20 years before their diagnosis with Parkinson's, confirming their conclusion that a lack of physical activity was associated with a higher risk of developing the disease.

"With our large study, not only did we find that female participants who exercise the most have a lower rate of developing Parkinson's disease, we also showed that early symptoms of Parkinson's disease were unlikely to explain these findings — and instead, that exercise is beneficial and may help delay or prevent this disease," said Alexis Elbaz, author of the study. "Our results support the creation of exercise programmes to help lower the risk of Parkinson's disease."

Most of the women were teachers who volunteered to take part in a long-term study to assess the French national health insurance scheme in 1990. Researchers warned that the group were "mostly educated and health-conscious teachers" who may not be totally "representative of the general population" but added that the associations between exercise levels and Parkinson's risk were still robust.

## Quintagram® No 1631

**Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only**

**1** Number of legs on an insect (3)

_ _ _

**2** Malevolent, sinful (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

**3** *Waltzing* ---, Australian song (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

**4** Female restaurant attendant (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

**5** Emma ---, Nelson's lover (8)

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | A | A | A | C | D | D | E |
| E | H | I | I | I | I | I | K |
| L | L | M | M | N | O | R | S |
| S | S | T | T | T | W | W | X |

**Solutions** T2 MindGames p15
**Cryptic clues** T2 MindGames p14

## Killed 'by her own dog'

A professional dog walker who died from bites to her neck is believed to have been killed by her American bully, a type of pit bull. Natasha Johnston, 28, from Croydon in south London, was killed while exercising eight dogs near Caterham, Surrey, in January. An inquest in February said she had been killed by "penetrating dog bites to her neck". All the animals were seized by Surrey police, which has now said that one of them, a large American bully that belonged to Johnston, has been put down. The inquest resumes next month.

## Gun videos for children

YouTube's algorithm is recommending content on firearms and gun violence to children who watch clips about video games, a report has said. Researchers at the Tech Transparency Project found that four accounts they set up on the site were recommended videos about weapons, shootings and murders after watching content exclusively about gaming. Two accounts identified as nine-year-old boys and two as 14-year-old boys. A YouTube spokesman said they were unable to draw strong conclusions from the research.




Offer ends 15/06/23. Subject to status and credit check. New customers only. £10 upfront payment. £40 per month (pm) includes 43" Sky Glass £14pm on a 48-month interest free loan and Sky Ultimate TV subscription (Sky Entertainment and Netflix basic) £26pm from month 4. 18-month minimum term on Sky Ultimate TV. Prices subject to change. Offer available when purchasing Sky Glass without a loan. All content on Sky Glass is streamed via broadband, minimum speed of 25Mbps required. Energy Rating G on a scale of A -G. 18+. UK, CI, IoM residential customers only. Separate terms and conditions apply to Sky Glass and Sky TV subscriptions. You own Sky Glass. Ongoing monthly prices and content subject to change. Streaming TV account required, manage online at sky.com or via the MySky app. Email address required for account login. If you do not activate within 14 days of receiving Sky Glass, we will automatically activate it for you and you will be billed from activation. Use of your Streaming TV subscription on your Sky Glass outside of your home address, may incur additional charges. See 'Your Streaming TV subscription' contract for more details. Only one Sky TV subscription per address, so existing Sky Q or Sky+ customers will need to take a new TV subscription and contract. Selection of content/shows/series available and varies each month. Includes Netflix basic plan (RRP: £6.99). Netflix Terms of Use Apply. Access to Discovery+ at no additional cost for the duration of your Sky TV subscription on Sky Glass (required).

# Couple found dead days after talking to police

Mario Ledwith

One of Britain's largest police forces has referred itself to a watchdog after being in contact with two victims and an alleged attacker shortly before a suspected murder.

West Yorkshire police spoke to Katie Higton, 27, and her boyfriend, Steven Harnett, 25, in the days before they were found dead at a property in Huddersfield on Monday.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) said that the force had also been in contact with a man who was later arrested on suspicion of murder.

The watchdog is assessing the case after receiving a mandatory referral from the force about its contact with the three individuals.

Marcus Osbourne, 34, of Huddersfield, appeared at Leeds magistrates' court yesterday charged with the murders of Higton, who was a mental health nurse, and Harnett, whom she had recently started dating. Osbourne appeared in the dock accompanied by a security officer for the three-minute hearing.

He was also charged with assaulting and detaining another woman against her will at Higton's property on the outskirts of Huddersfield, where the couple were later found dead.

Osbourne, wearing a grey long-sleeved T-shirt and grey jogging bottoms, spoke only to confirm his name, date of birth and address during a three-minute hearing. He was remanded in custody and will appear at Leeds crown court today.



**Steven Harnett and Katie Higton had been dating for only a short time**

Police were called to Higton's address at 9.53am on Monday after paramedics found the couple with injuries believed to have been inflicted by a bladed weapon.

They were confirmed to have died at the scene. Higton, a mother of four, and Harnett are thought to have been on a cinema date the evening before they were found dead. Post-mortem examinations were taking place this week.

A card left at the scene by Higton's children read: "To our beautiful mummy. We love you with all of our hearts. Your four precious babies."

Another card left with flowers said: "RIP my darling. We love you. No more suffering."

Relatives of Higton paid tribute to her as "the best mum" and said the family was "absolutely devastated" as they placed flowers on behalf of her two eldest children at the scene. Her friend, who asked not to be named, said that the children "were in the property when the incident took place". He described Higton as "bubbly, outgoing, fun" and "a great mum".

The IOPC said: "We have received a mandatory referral from West Yorkshire police linked to the suspected murder of two people in Huddersfield. This is due to the fact officers had contact with both victims, and a man who has since been arrested on suspicion of murder, in the days prior to this tragic incident. We will now assess the available information to determine what further action may be required.

"Our thoughts are with all those affected by these events."

DANIEL LEAL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



## Royal visit brings the stalls to a standstill

**The King admitted he is "amazed" that Punch and Judy is still being performed during a visit to the birthplace of the centuries-old puppet show (Alex Farber writes).**

**Charles and Camilla brought central London to a standstill as they toured Covent Garden for their first joint engagement since the coronation. The visit was reminiscent of Queen Elizabeth's tour of the entertainment hub in 1988.**

**They spent more than an hour greeting traders, visitors, performers and actors and paused to watch Punch and Judy, before being shown around St Paul's Church by the Rev Simon Grigg and his husband, Paul Haugen.**

**The King signed the visitors' book which was used by his late mother when she went there.**

**A portrait of King Charles has also been unveiled by the high-society magazine Tatler. The picture, which appears on the cover of Tatler's July issue, was painted by Sarah Knights, an art teacher from Trinidad and Tobago, who said the commission was "very special".**

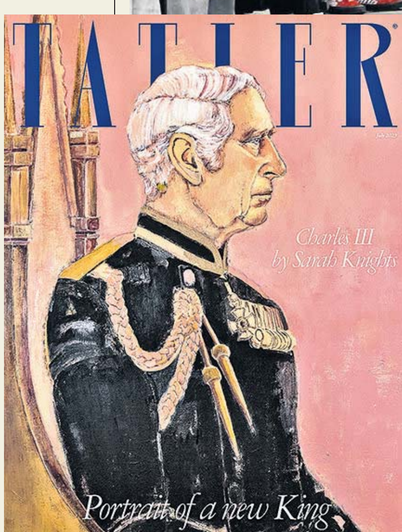
**She was asked by Richard Dennen, Tatler's editor, to create the painting and is the second artist to receive a royal commission from the magazine after Oluwole Omofemi's tribute to Queen Elizabeth II appeared on its commemorative Platinum Jubilee cover last year.**

**Dennen worked with the Akoje Gallery in London, co-founded by Maro Itoje, the England rugby player, and Khalil Akar, the art director, to find the next Commonwealth artist to follow in Omofemi's footsteps. He said that the value of the Nigerian artist's work had skyrocketed since his commission, and that Knights's work is set to go on display at Sotheby's this summer after its May 25 publication.**

**Dennen added: "Her portrait marks a new era for the British monarchy and the Commonwealth."**

**Knights said that the King had faced in the opposite direction in an early version of the painting before she changed her mind. "I thought it was more appropriate for him to face east: the rising of the sun, the beginning of a new day, a new dawn," she said. "So I got my husband to sit for me in profile to help me get the pose right."**

**The painting proved logistically challenging to create in her small studio space. "Nothing is completely safe. One day I came home from school and found [my two dogs] nibbling at the edge of the canvas. Thank goodness I spotted them just in time," she said.**




The King and Queen toured Covent Garden yesterday. Tatler's July issue, above, has a portrait by Sarah Knights, a Trinidadian art teacher

## If Bacon did boredom

**The swagger portrait is dead. Long live the slump portrait (Laura Freeman writes). Van Dyck painted King Charles on horseback, Gainsborough did George III larger than life with garter star, Thomas Lawrence gave us George IV in red velvet, ermine and shiny, white stockings. And here is Charles, shoulders rounded, hair combed but not pomaded, jaw resolute, if a little jowly, in dark uniform, modest medals and absolutely no fur, pomp, stuff or nonsense. He might be a bearer at his own funeral.**

**There's always a risk with portraits taken from photographs that the subject looks a little embalmed. Hard to have rapport with a Google image. Still, Sarah Knights has captured something of the Charles we think we know, his diffidence, his look of always wanting to be somewhere else — the garden at Highgrove? — the practised, glazed gaze of a man who has sat through too many ceremonies, variety concerts and openings of community centres.**

**She cites Francis Bacon as an inspiration, and you can certainly see Bacon in her palette. But if Bacon gave us screaming popes and howling furies, Knights gives us a man destined, if not doomed, to sit on hard chairs and take a polite interest, however much he may be screaming inside.**

# Volunteers held despite Met's logo on jackets

**Matt Dathan** Home Affairs Editor

Female safety volunteers were arrested by Metropolitan Police officers on suspicion of planning protests to disrupt the coronation despite wearing high-viz jackets displaying the force's logo, MPs were told.

Suzie Melvin said that she and two other volunteers for Westminster council's Night Stars safety scheme were detained for hours even though their organisation has a formal partnership with the Met.

She told parliament's home affairs select committee that the police officer — a member of the Territorial Support Group — who arrested her stated that they were "specifically looking" for people from her organisation.

It was put to her that their arrest could have been linked to the fact that Night Stars volunteers carry rape alarms as part of an "anti-spiking kit".

Matt Twist, the Met's temporary assistant commissioner, who oversaw the policing of the coronation, told the committee that the force had received "significant" intelligence that rape alarms were among items that protesters were planning to throw at the coronation procession.

He said that there was a "very real risk" that rape alarms, an invasion of the coronation route and "sudden loud amplified music" were tactics being planned to scare the horses, which he said would have led to "significant safety risk and potential serious injury".

Melvin said that she and two colleagues were approached by officers who wanted to stop and search them during a regular patrol in Soho early on the Saturday of the coronation. She told MPs that they showed the police emails and leaflets from Westminster city council and the Night Stars website to prove that they were doing a regular shift helping to keep people safe after nights out. They also pointed to the high visibility vests they were wearing which "display the Met Police logo as well because we are in partnership with the Met", Melvin said. She told the committee: "Then they also searched the church we base ourselves out of. We were told we were going to be arrested. We were then taken in police vans to Walworth police station … [we] were released a little bit after 4pm."

Twist denied that the Met had been under political pressure to protect "the look" of the coronation by cracking down on protesters.

News

# Universities ‘too reliant’ on fees from Chinese students

**Nicola Woolcock** Education Editor

Universities are over-reliant on tuition fees from Chinese students and are putting themselves at financial risk, a regulator has warned.

The Office for Students (OfS) has written to 23 universities in England which it fears are exposed because they are too dependent on high levels of recruitment from China.

It expects them to draw up contingency plans to protect them from a sudden drop in overseas students and the income that they bring. International students pay undergraduate tuition fees of about £22,000 a year, but this can exceed £40,000 in some cases.

There were 124,370 Chinese students at English universities in 2021-22, according to the Higher Education Statistics Agency, accounting for about 5 per cent of all students. This had risen by about a third since 2017-18. Chinese students make up almost a quarter of the population at some institutions.

Rishi Sunak said yesterday that he would not outlaw Confucius Institutes from university campuses, despite making this pledge during his leadership campaign last year. New higher education free speech laws, which came into effect last week, mean that the network of Chinese “cultural” centres is operating illegally and should be banned, according to one organisation. UK-China Transparency said that the institutes, based at about 30 universities, posed a systematic threat to freedom of speech, academic freedom and safety from harassment.

It said Chinese staff at the institutes were recruited in a discriminatory way and on their ability to enforce Chinese Community Party discipline in the UK, which meant that they were obliged to “undermine free speech and conduct harassment on command”. Sunak said that a ban would be disproportionate.

The OfS warned that any event that “reduces the flow” of international students to universities — such as a changing geopolitical environment — could cause a “significant impact” on the income of institutions heavily reliant on international recruitment.

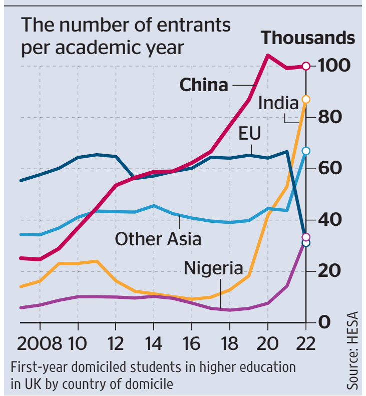
The English institutions with the largest number of Chinese students in 2021-22 were University College London, University of Manchester, King’s College London and the University of Sheffield — all accounting for more than 15 per cent of their student body. The OfS analysis said that non-EU fee income as a proportion of the total was forecast to increase from 19.3 per cent in 2021-22 to 24 per cent in 2025-26. The financial position of institutions “remains sound”, it added.

Susan Lapworth, chief executive of the regulator, said: “For a small number of institutions the financial picture is of particular concern and we will continue to focus our attention on those cases. But all institutions will continue to face financial challenges, with a number of risks present at the same time for many.”

Nick Hillman, director of the Higher Education Policy Institute, said: “Universities are often stuck between a rock and a hard place — if they take on more home students they lose more money, if they recruit a lot of students from China to make up the shortfall they get admonished by the OfS.”

Universities UK said: “Universities are well aware of the risks of over-reliance on narrow streams of student applications, and have been working hard to diversify their student base.”

**How they compare**





CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

**Gone but not forgotten** A Lancaster bomber in Lincoln marks 80 years since the Dambuster raids. Events were held without any surviving crew for the first time


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# Blob-like sea jelly has the nerve to be mother of mankind

**Rhys Blakely** Science Correspondent

Scientists shed new light on one of our ancient ancestors by cracking one of zoology's toughest puzzles: which came first, the sea-sponge or the comb jelly?

Sponges are simple, sedentary sea creatures. Comb jellies are gelatinous blob-like organisms that swim through the oceans.

More than 500 million years ago, one of them became the first type of animal to diverge away from its ancestral lineage and form its own branch on the evolutionary tree.

After years of disagreement among scientists, a study published in the journal Nature has now suggested that it was the comb jellies that were the first to emerge in this way.

The evolutionary "trunk" from which the comb jelly branch split would itself later divide into four other major lineages of animal life that still exist today: sponges, placozoans (microscopic flat animals), cnidarians (such as anemones, jellyfish and hydra) and bilaterians (which include humans, as well as molluscs, arthropods and numerous worms). The findings will allow scientists to build a clearer picture of what the ancestor of all animals looked like. We have very few fossils of these very early creatures. However, we know that comb jellies have muscles and neurons (nerve cells) while sponges do not.

It is reasonable to assume, the researchers argue, that all animals that have neurons and muscles share a common ancestor, which also had these traits.

If the sea jellies were the first group of animals to branch off, it suggests that "the last ancestor of all animals, which probably existed around 700 million years ago or longer, also had neurons and muscles", Dr Darrin Schultz of the University of Vienna, who led the study, said.

By contrast, if sponges had been the first creatures to branch off — which many researchers had assumed was the case — it would have suggested that the ancestor of all animals lacked neurons and muscles. It would have been possible that these cell types only evolved tens of millions or even hundreds of millions of years later, a scenario that it now seems we can rule out.

The research involved looking at the chromosomes of a variety of animals, thread-like structures found inside the nucleus of their cells, which carry their genes, which are formed from DNA.

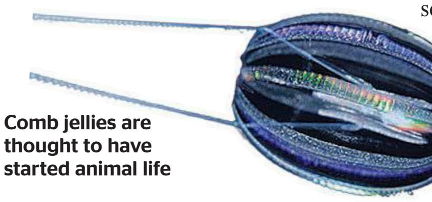
The analysis revealed key similarities between the chromosomes of comb jellies and those of primitive unicellular organisms, which shared a common ancestor around a billion years ago. In each, there were 14 groups of genes that were each found on separate chromosomes.

In all the other animal lineages, including sponges, these 14 groups of genes have been reorganised and now form seven groups. The researchers argue that this must have happened in a common ancestor of these creatures.

Crucially, this could only have happened after the comb jellies had split away.

Professor Daniel Rokhsar of the University of California, Berkeley, said: "It's exciting: we're looking back deep in time where we have no hope of getting fossils, but by comparing genomes, we're learning things about these very early ancestors."

Schultz added: "The fingerprints of this ancient evolutionary event are still present in the genomes of animals hundreds of millions of years later. This research … gives us context for understanding what makes animals animals. This work will help us understand the basic functions we all share, like how they sense their surroundings, how they eat and how they move."



Comb jellies are thought to have started animal life

# TMS

diary@thetimes.co.uk | @timesdiary

## Grim reaper's final insult

The comic actress Kathy Burke, who hosts a cheery podcast about the perfect death called *Where There's a Will, There's a Wake*, is worried that she will die in the same accident as someone far more famous. "I was on a flight last year and Olivia Colman was on it," she said. "I thought, 'Well if we go down, that's it. It's all going to be about Dame Olivia and no one is going to give a shit about me.' The Daily Mail page 8 will probably say: 'That horrible woman has perished: good.'" As far forward as page 8? It could be worse. The Times didn't report the deaths of CS Lewis and Aldous Huxley until three days after they happened on November 22, 1963. Our attention had been distracted by events near a book depository in Texas on the same day.

**COLMAN'S SUPERHERO**
Colman herself is happy to be overshadowed by Samuel L Jackson, her co-star in a new Marvel mini-series called *Secret Invasion*. "I loved him," she gushed to Empire. "He said my trainers were 'dope'. I didn't take them off for a year." Colman, below, said her only regret was that she wasn't cast as a superhero. "I kept asking if I could be bitten by something or fall into a vat of something," she said. "They were having none of it."

*Jeremy Hunt may have spent too long listening to football managers. The chancellor told the British Chambers of Commerce conference yesterday that he supported the Bank of England's role in monetary policy "150 per cent". And on National Numeracy Day as well… Let's hope that's just an exaggeration, not a forecast for inflation.*



**SPECTACLE IN UPPERTHONG**
Since he retired after 36 years of writing for Private Eye, Francis Wheen has found two things fill his social calendar. "I spend most of my time at funerals," he told Lackey Jacky at the launch of Andy McSmith's memoir, which led a passing Michael Cockerell to recall Harold Macmillan's line that "funerals are the cocktail parties of the geriatric classes". Wheen's other pursuit is to watch village cricket in places with funny names. Most recently he was in Upperthong, near Huddersfield, where he saw a young man share a double-century stand against Holmbridge. There was more riding on this than mere statistics. The youth was Wheen's son and he was about to marry his batting partner's daughter. "The wedding might not have gone so well if he'd run him out," Wheen said.

*An election must be in the offing. Tory HQ launched a members' lottery yesterday with "a prize that no other lottery can offer" for those who stake £5 a month. The lucky winner will get £10,000 and a ten-minute chat on the phone with Rishi Sunak. Second prize, 20 minutes?*

**MAD MISS AT WEMBLEY**
As one of the biggest bands of the 1980s, with 15 top-ten hits by 1985, Madness should have performed at Live Aid, but the reggae band's lead singer has revealed that he blew the chance by turning down Bob Geldof when he offered him a slot at Wembley. "I thought this geezer couldn't organise a bunk-up in a brothel," Suggs admitted in an interview with Richard Herring. He decided instead to record a single with Jerry Dammers, of the Specials. "We sold 4,000 copies," Suggs said. "I'll never forget because I was moving house on the day of Live Aid and could hear it coming out of every house within a five-mile radius."

PATRICK KIDD

LEGAL NOTICE

**IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE WERE HARMED BY ENDO OR A RELATED COMPANY, INCLUDING AMS, OR THEIR PRODUCTS INCLUDING TRANSVAGINAL MESH, YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED BY DEADLINES IN THE ENDO BANKRUPTCY.**

**The deadline to file a claim in the bankruptcy is July 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. (U.S. Eastern Time).**
**The deadline to object to Endo's sale is July 7, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. (U.S. Eastern Time).**

**WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?**

On August 16, 2022, Endo International plc and certain of its affiliates filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. Endo affiliate American Medical Systems (AMS) previously manufactured and/or sold transvaginal mesh. **This notice is intended to inform you of your rights in this bankruptcy regarding the bar date and proof of claim process and Endo's proposed sale of substantially all of its assets**.

**WHAT IS A CLAIM?**

A "claim" means a right to seek payment or other compensation. If you, or another loved one were harmed by Endo or a related company, including American Medical Systems (AMS), or their products, including transvaginal mesh, you may have a claim against one or more of these entities. To make a claim, you will need to submit a proof of claim in the bankruptcy case. You may file a claim on behalf of yourself or a deceased or disabled relative.

Examples of claims that may be filed in the Endo bankruptcy include but are not limited to transvaginal mesh claims for pelvic pain, infection, bleeding, or other alleged injuries.

**WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BAR DATE AND PROOF OF CLAIM PROCESS?**

**The deadline to submit your proof of claim is called a bar date. The bar date, o**r the deadline to submit your proof of claim**, is July 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. (U.S. Eastern Time)**. If you do not submit a proof of claim by the deadline, you will lose any rights you may have had to seek payment or compensation. You must file a proof of claim form so that it is actually received by the bar date. A proof of claim form can be filed by you, a legal guardian, survivors, or relatives of people who have died or are disabled. You do not need an attorney to file a proof of claim for you.

For a more complete list of relevant companies and products manufactured and/or sold by Endo, AMS, and their related companies, and for more complete details about the bar date and instructions on how to file a confidential personal injury claim, visit **EndoClaims.com/uk/index-uk.html** or call **929.284.1688 (International)**.

**WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SALE?**

Endo intends to sell substantially all of its assets in an auction and sale process in the bankruptcy case and subject to approval by the bankruptcy court. **Endo is seeking relief that the sale will be free and clear of all claims, liens, and encumbrances**.

If you disagree with the proposed sale, you must object to the sale in writing, so that your objection is received on or before **July 7, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. (U.S. Eastern Time)**. **Any party in interest who fails to properly file and serve its objection by the objection deadline may lose its claim against Endo's assets if the sale is approved**. Objections not filed and served properly may not be considered by the bankruptcy court.

Complete details about the proposed sale, including any auction for Endo's assets, the date of the hearing to consider the sale, and instructions on how to file an objection, are available at **EndoClaims.com/uk/index-uk.html** or by calling **929.284.1688 (International)**.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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Claims Processing Center
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New York, NY 10163-4850

# Tories drop pledge to end NHS agency spending 'rip-off'

**TIMES Health Commission**

**Kat Lay** Health Editor
**Georgia Lambert**

The government has abandoned a pledge to eliminate NHS spending on cap-busting agency staffing.

Ministers had said they wanted to stop all health service spending that breached price caps for temporary doctors and nurses by the end of last year. However, hospitals are still spending millions above those caps to fill shifts, and a minister has revealed that the government no longer has a target date for ending the practice.

Wes Streeting, the shadow health secretary, said at a hearing of The Times Health Commission, a year-long inquiry into health and social care: "We've got an awful lot of people making an awful lot of money out of the government's failure to have a proper workforce strategy and to give the NHS the staff it needs to treat patients on time.

"There will always be the need for some flexibility within the system, whether that's flexible shift working for staff and flexibility for hospital trusts to scale up the resource, depending on the pressures and demand.

"But I think to over-rely to this extent on rip-off agencies is bad for patients, bad for taxpayers, and the fact that the government don't even have the ambition to end this practice says a lot about where we are after 13 years of failure."

NHS bodies are supposed to keep agency spending within price caps, set at an hourly rate of 55 per cent above basic pay rates for an employee doing the same role. However, they can pay external recruitment companies more in "exceptional" circumstances to keep patients safe, called "off-framework" spending.

In a letter to agencies in December 2020, Helen Whately, the care minister, described eliminating off-framework spending as "one of our priorities in the NHS". She told them: "Off-framework spend is not sustainable, not a cost-effective use of taxpayers' money and does not create safe care for our patients. If you … want to be part of our supplier community … we look forward to working with you to eliminate off-framework spend by 2022."

However, in a recent written answer to a question from Streeting, Will Quince, the health minister, said: "While we have not set a target date for stopping National Health Service spending on off-framework agencies, we continue to bear down on their use.

"A temporary workforce market allows the NHS to meet demand fluctuations without the need to increase capacity above that which would be required on a sustained basis. Staff can be drawn from internal staff banks or external agencies. Our policy is to reduce the use of agency staff and to prioritise the use of in-house staff banks."

Health service leaders said that trusts often had to turn to expensive agencies to help with severe staff shortages.

THE ART OF BANKSY/PA




**Street art** More than 100 works will feature in The Art of Banksy exhibition in Regent Street, London, from July 5. Some will be on display for the first time

# Police find 19 suspects over ward deaths

Police investigating the deaths of hundreds of patients at a community hospital have identified 19 suspects.

The patients, at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, in Hampshire, had their lives shortened by the use of opioids over an 11-year period ending in 2000.

The Kent and Essex serious crime directorate, which is managing the investigation, said it was reviewing the records of more than 750 patients.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Neil Jerome said the investigation was "one of the largest and most complex of its nature in the history of UK policing". He said about 150 detectives had assessed more than three million pages of documents and taken witness statements from about 1,150 people.

Jerome said 19 suspects had been identified and interviews under caution were taking place.

More than 450 people had their lives shortened at the hospital, while another 200 were "probably" similarly given opioids between 1989 and 2000 without medical justification, according to an independent panel report released in 2018.

It said there was "a disregard for human life and a culture of shortening lives of a large number of patients". The inquiry, led by James Jones, the former bishop of Liverpool, did not ascribe criminal or civil liability for the deaths.

Emma Jones, of Leigh Day solicitors, who represents ten of the families whose relatives died, said: "The families have never been satisfied that they have had the answers needed about the deaths of their loved ones and that is why they have been campaigning for inquests into their deaths."

# Nurse denies crying for herself 'but not for babies she murdered'

**Laurence Sleator**

Lucy Letby, the nurse accused of killing babies while on duty, has denied crying in court only when talking about herself and never when talking about the infants she allegedly murdered.

Letby, 33, is accused of murdering seven babies and attempting to murder ten others between June 2015 and June 2016 while working at the Countess of Chester Hospital's neonatal unit. She denies the charges.

Appearing at Manchester crown court for a fifth day to give evidence, Letby was cross-examined by Nick Johnson KC, for the prosecution. He asked her: "Is there any reason why you cry when you talk about yourself and do not cry when you talk about the dead and seriously injured children?" Letby replied: "I have cried when talking about some of the babies."

The prosecution accused Letby of suggesting that the consultant Dr Ravi Jayaram had misled the jury when he said he saw Letby standing by the incubator of one of the children she is accused of murdering.

Jayaram said alarms were sounding as the baby's blood oxygen levels fell but that Letby was "doing nothing".

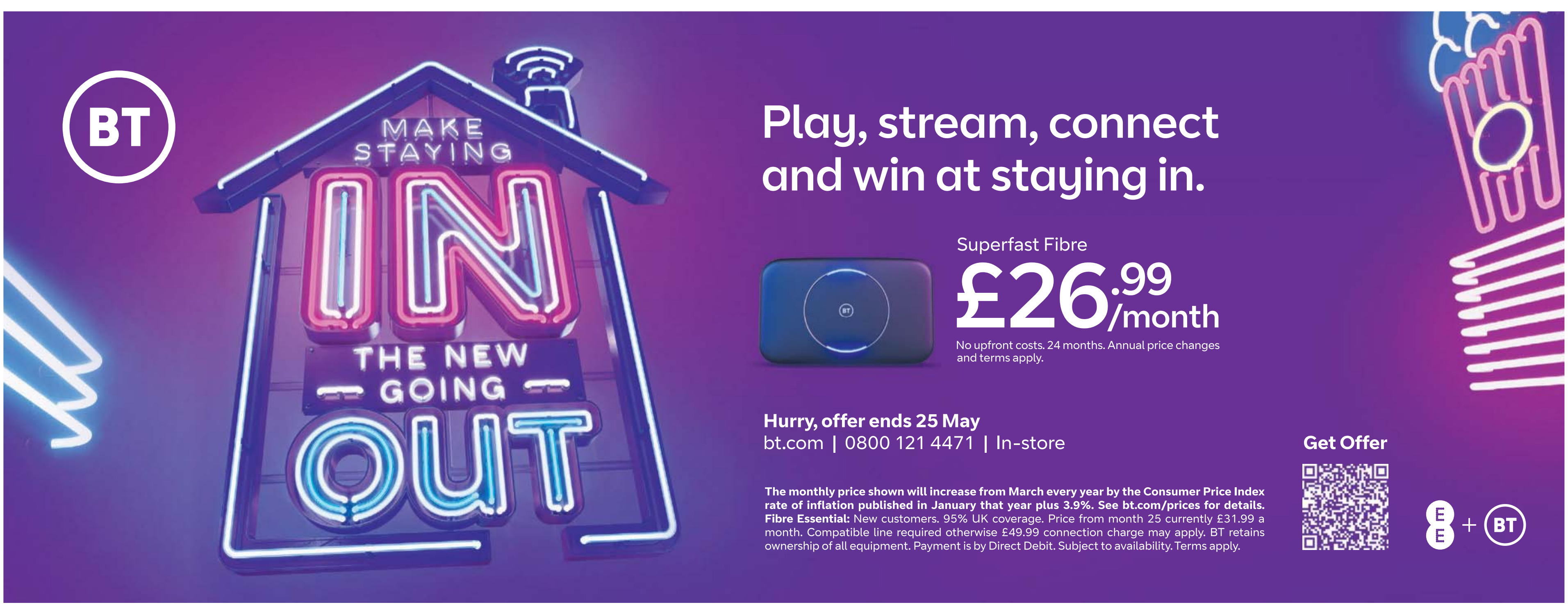
The prosecution said that Letby was suggesting he was "making it up", after she said that she did not recall any conversation with Jayaram that night.

Letby replied: "I don't think I said yesterday he was making it up."

Johnson asked her about nursing shift handover sheets, with the names of some of her alleged victims, that were found at her home after her arrest. He asked why they had been found "in the bin bag in your garage".

"You're not bothered are you?" he added. Letby replied: "It's not that I'm not bothered. They were at my home address but they were still held in confidence."

The trial continues.



# Police bodycams will include live facial recognition technology

Charlie Parker

Facial-recognition technology will be used in body-worn cameras by officers on patrol under government plans to "embed" it in everyday policing.

Police use of live facial recognition in England and Wales has so far been limited to special operations, such as football matches or the coronation.

However, Chris Philp, the policing minister, is pushing for its integration with body-worn devices, drones and ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) cameras.

Professor Fraser Sampson, the biometrics and surveillance camera commissioner, warned that this is now a "de facto" policy of the government.

A document produced for the commissioner said Philp had "expressed his desire to embed facial recognition technology in policing". It said this was "extremely likely to include exploring integration of this technology with police body-worn video."

A camera worn by an officer on patrol could check faces against a list of suspects, potentially assessing "hundreds, if not thousands, of people".

Sampson told The Times that the technology could play an important role in policing, but could be abused without proper oversight. "Criticisms are coming from a number of places where the use of live facial recognition is seen as a step too far — so intrusive as to be Orwellian," he said.

"My feeling is that if you are going to embed this across all forms of legitimate police public space surveillance capability, you need a framework by which both the police and the public can see really clearly the occasions on which it will be used and under what circumstances it will be used."

Sampson said the closest thing to such a framework was the surveillance camera code of practice, but that a new bill before parliament would wipe it out.

A spokeswoman for the Home Office said: "The government is committed to empower the police to use new technologies like facial recognition in a fair and proportionate way."

STEPHEN BIDWELL/SWNS





# Flee Willy: killer whales chase yacht

**A couple said they prepared to flee on a life raft after a pod of orcas began chasing their boat (Shayma Bakht writes).**

**Janet Morris and Stephen Bidwell, who are originally from Cambridge, were taking part in a sailing course off Morocco when the orcas, or killer whales, began bumping their 46ft boat in a chase that continued for an hour.**

**Morris, 58, a business consultant, said they were initially amazed but became worried when the pod appeared to attack. "We were sitting ducks. We were amazingly calm but underneath we were thinking, 'Oh my God'."**

**The couple were having a nap before taking the night watch when they woke to the sound of banging on the hull and crew members shouting: "Orcas! Orcas!" Morris said: "We got our valuables and our passports and talked about getting the life raft ready".**

**The incident happened seven miles off Tangier in the Strait of Gibraltar, known as "orca alley" due to the number spotted there. There have been more than a hundred orca interactions with boats along the strait since 2020. It has been suggested that black antifouling paint applied to ships and yachts could be behind a rise in incidents.**

**Bidwell, 58, a photographer, added: "We all remained calm because we were aware that if any of us got anxious, it would be infectious.**

**"We were able to do that because the skipper was so calm."**

**The crew said half a dozen orcas appeared to be chasing pieces of debris beneath the boat. They let up the chase after an hour, at which point the boat's steering failed. After the yacht reached port, the crew realised that the orcas had been chasing pieces of the yacht's rudder.**

At least six orcas started bumping the 46ft yacht off Morocco and chased it for an hour, leaving the boat with a smashed rudder

Kayak attacked, page 34

# Constable 'didn't know she was leading Couzens case'

Fiona Hamilton Crime Editor

The former Metropolitan Police constable accused of botching the Wayne Couzens flashing case said that she did not know she was still supposed to be investigating until after he had abducted, raped and killed Sarah Everard.

Samantha Lee, 29, was sent to a McDonald's where Couzens had twice exposed himself to female staff at the drive-through, but said she was then assigned to other duties and believed the case had been passed to colleagues.

Lee was "shocked" to discover after Everard's disappearance that she was still the investigating officer, she told a disciplinary hearing. She had believed the flashing was a low-risk case because victims were "safe within a building".

Lee was assigned on March 3, 2021, hours before Couzens used his status as a police officer to lure Everard into his car. He had been reported on February 28 for twice exposing himself at a McDonald's in Swanley, Kent, but there was a three-day delay in assigning Lee because of the Met's incident triage process.

Lee, who worked for the Met for five years, has been charged with gross misconduct and accused of rushing her investigation, failing to take proper steps and then lying about it.

She has left the force and works as a model on the adult website OnlyFans.

The Met has said that, had she done more, officers could have been sent to Couzens's house to stop him before he attacked Everard. However, several officers have told the hearing that, even if the flashing case had been escalated, it is extremely unlikely that an arrest would have happened so quickly.



**Samantha Lee said she thought the case had been passed to her colleagues**

Lee has insisted that she did a "competent" job when she met Sam Taylor, the McDonald's branch manager, on March 3. The Met had already connected Couzens with the car registration.

Lee had been expecting to speak to the victims but they were not on shift because the Met's control room had told Taylor he could provide written statements from them. He gave them to Lee but she said that his evidence was "hearsay" because he was not on shift when the crimes were committed.

Taylor has said that he showed Lee CCTV footage of Couzens's car and told her it could be transferred on to a USB. She has said he was mistaken and did not tell her at the time. Murder squad detectives later collected the footage.

Lee told the police watchdog she did not know Couzens and that it was not routine to check whether suspects worked for the police.

She completed a crime report that said he was "suspect No 1" and would "need to be arrested for indecent exposure", but agreed during the hearing that this had not been possible before witness statements were taken. She then worked two night shifts before some rest days and no action was taken.

The Met has said that Lee should have flagged the case to colleagues.

The McDonald's incident was one of several missed opportunities to stop Couzens. He had exposed himself on a rural road in Kent three months before he killed Everard. A sergeant at Kent police was charged with misconduct, a lower-level disciplinary offence, for failing to properly investigate a 2015 incident in which Couzens was reported for driving naked from the waist down.

# Met boss rebukes justice ministry over rape tweet

Fiona Hamilton

One of Britain's most senior officers has hit out at the government over "inaccurate and offensive" messaging about the way police respond to rape.

Dame Lynne Owens, deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said that the Ministry of Justice had minimised the efforts of officers to support victims of sexual offences and had undermined public trust.

It is rare for a senior officer to publicly challenge the government.

Owens, who was appointed by Sir Mark Rowley when he took over the Met in September, was responding to a ministry tweet about proposed rape reforms in the Victims and Prisoners Bill.

A press release from Alex Chalk, the justice secretary, said on Monday that victims of rape would "no longer face unnecessary and invasive requests from the police to access their therapy notes or other personal records".

The same language was used in a tweet from the ministry's official account that day. The tweet said that the reform would "help ensure vulnerable victims aren't put off reporting rape for fear that notes could be used against them in court".

Owens responded on Twitter: "The way this tweet is written is inaccurate & offensive, minimising the efforts the majority of police officers make to support victims & comply with the expectations of other parts of the justice system. Change was needed but to position in this way undermines public trust."

Owens said that it "over-simplifies" the policy change and that she had asked a senior Met officer to work with the National Police Chiefs' Council on "issuing a more accurate description". She agreed with a Twitter user that she was concerned the ministry's stance would scare victims into keeping quiet.

The MoJ deleted its tweet after the intervention by Owens.

The government's amendment to the bill says that police should request only material that is "absolutely necessary and proportionate", to ensure that vulnerable people are not put off seeking help.

There has been a series of controversies about the sexual past of alleged victims being used by police and prosecutors as an excuse not to pursue cases, or by defence teams to undermine them in court.

Victims' campaigners had raised concerns that police were storing and using sensitive and personal information that had no relevance to the criminal case they were investigating. They said that the practice would stop victims coming forward.

News

# Navy chief's warning over Putin's stealth submarines

George Grylls Defence Correspondent

Russia has launched some of the quietest submarines in the world and Britain is still unsure whether its underwater cables have been sabotaged by Moscow, the first sea lord has said.

Admiral Sir Ben Key, head of the Royal Navy, said that Britain could not afford to ignore the threat posed by Russian submarine warfare, which he likened to Nazi targeting of the Atlantic convoys in the Second World War.

He said the UK needed to invest in "cutting-edge" capabilities to detect, and if necessary defeat, "some of the very quietest" submarines in the world.

"This is not cheap but I don't see coming second in the future antisubmarine warfare battle as a desirable option," he said. "It wasn't something we contemplated in 1940 and I don't believe it is something we should contemplate now."

Last year President Putin commissioned the K-329 Belgorod submarine, the world's longest underwater vessel, which is armed with nuclear torpedoes the size of a bus.

The navy is particularly concerned by the stealth of the Kilo class of submarines, which have undergone significant upgrades since they entered service in 1980. Armed with Kalibr cruise missiles, the streamlined design of the submarine's hull has made it so quiet that the vessel has been nicknamed the "Black Hole" by the US navy.



The navy, led by Admiral Sir Ben Key, below, is particularly concerned by the stealth of the Kilo class of submarines.



Speaking at the First Sea Lord's Sea Power Conference in Lancaster House, central London, Key said the navy needed to "better understand" if Russia had sabotaged underwater cables linking the UK to the rest of the world, and that the purchase of two ships would improve seabed reconnaissance.

The government has spent £110 million on multirole ocean-surveillance vessels called RFA Proteus and RFA Stirling Castle, which are due to enter service this year.

The destruction last autumn of Nord Stream gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea highlighted the vulnerability of European countries to undersea attacks. An investigation by Nordic broadcasters has shown how Russian vessels, including a hydrographic ship with a submarine on board, another submarine and a tug boat, sailed near the explosion sites in the weeks before the attack.

Nato believes Moscow may have mined electricity connectors, oil and gas pipelines and telecoms cables, The Times revealed this month. Asked if that included British infrastructure, Key said the navy was trying to assess "vulnerabilities". "It's a known vulnerability we all have," he said. "There's a huge amount of seabed out there. We aren't complacent about this … Russia has for a number of years been investing in its undersea capability. We are responding to it."

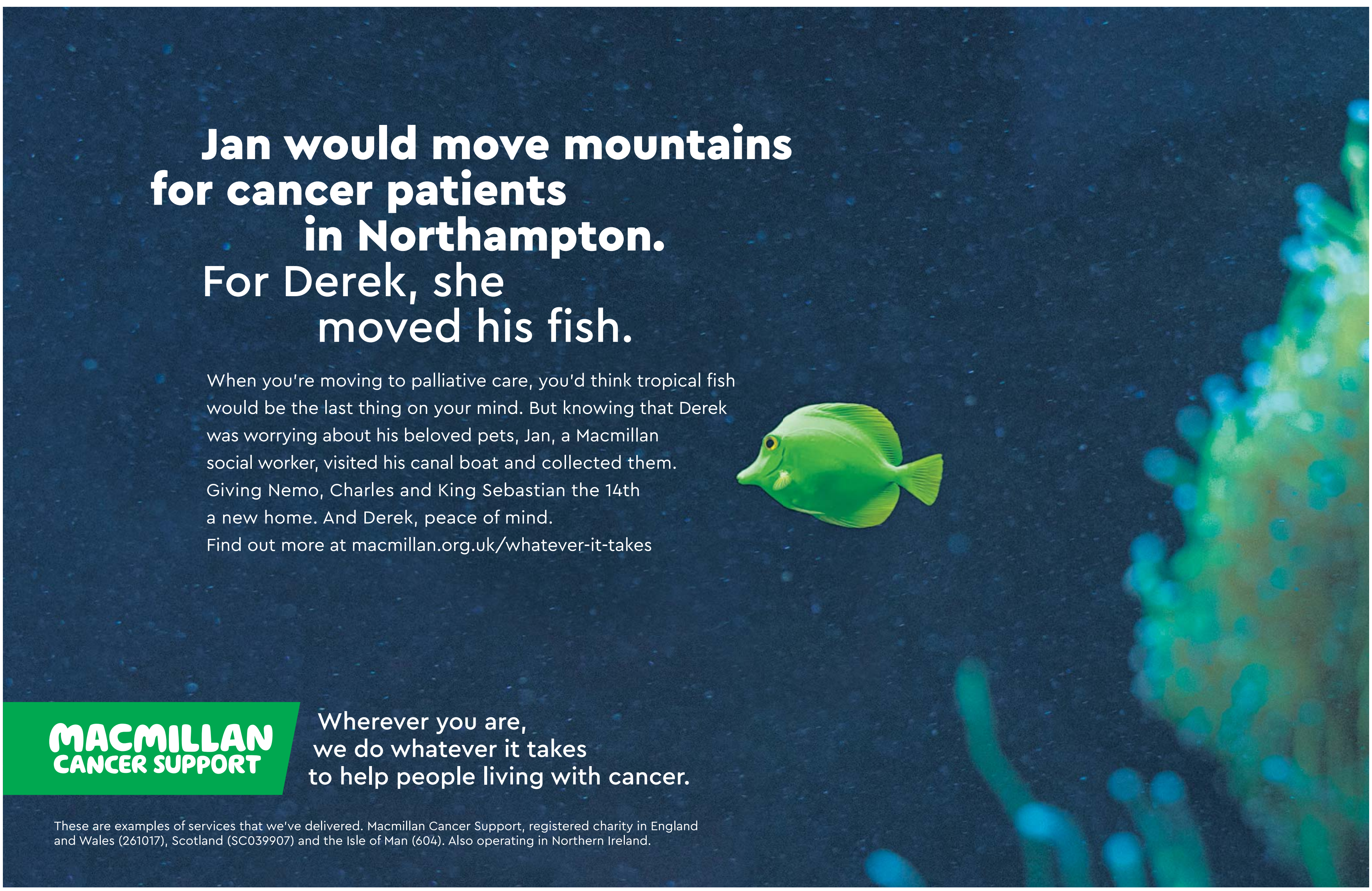
He said that Britain's aircraft carriers would operate a "mix" of planes and drones in the future and described the pace of technological change in naval warfare as a "Dreadnought moment". At the beginning of the 20th century, the navy revolutionised shipbuilding with the construction of HMS Dreadnought, and Key described recent developments in AI and quantum computing as similarly "breathtaking".

Ukraine: We killed pro-war figures on Russian soil, page 30

HANSONS/BNPS



**Smoked out** A cache of previously unpublished images of original members of the SAS during the Second World War are set to fetch thousands of pounds next month at Hansons auctioneers' medals and militaria auction in Etwall, Derbyshire



# Beyoncé's three hours of shiny robo-pop are overblown, but epic

**Pop** Will Hodgkinson

**Beyoncé: Renaissance**
Principality Stadium, Cardiff
★★★★☆

INSTARIMAGES.COM/COVER IMAGES



**The show is escapism at its best: underground club culture taken to the mainstream and held together by a superstar**

A Beyoncé show was always going to be a big deal. Just how big this turned out to be, with enough dancers to form an unusually glamorous army, a screen that occupied a good chunk of Cardiff, and a megawatt performance from the woman herself that struck the right balance between high-octane dazzle and down-home charm, took some getting used to.

The Renaissance tour is connected to Beyoncé's 2022 album of the same name, a clubby celebration of black and gay dance culture. This three-hour show took those themes and expanded them into the equivalent of a Busby Berkeley musical: epic, overblown, captivating.

Beyoncé emerged from the floor amid a cloud of ice, so dwarfed by the vast stage that she looked like a tiny songstress in a sparkling silver gown.

"This song means more and more to me now that I know how beautiful flaws are," she said of *Flaws and All*; paradoxical given Beyoncé's whole thing is about flawless prowess, but there was humanity at the heart of it. From there, things just got bigger.

The Renaissance mid-section featured Beyoncé channelling the robot from *Metropolis*, Jane Fonda in *Barbarella* and other visions of futuristic sexiness; she even did a dance routine with two picture-frame-wielding robots. And there was a lot happening beyond the woman 60,000 people had come to see: a dance party during the disco funk of *Cuff It*, a 50ft horse (not a real one, that would be terrifying) arriving to the ecstatic house of *Break My Soul*, the backing singers having their own moment with a rendition of Diana Ross's *Love Hangover*.

The concert also demonstrated how out-there some of Beyoncé's biggest hits have been. *Girls* was remarkable; a militaristic feminist chant as stridently strange as it was dynamic. *Crazy In Love* started as the peerless pop hit we all know and ended as a jazz odyssey. For a stadium affair, this took a lot of risks.

There were countless costume changes and set pieces, including an Aphrodite shell from which Beyoncé emerged, seemingly naked (but actually in a flesh-coloured body suit) and the world's most camp army tank. It was silver with a glitter finish.

Things even got a bit sinister toward the end, with a Jim Morrison quote, "whoever controls the media controls the mind" and images of mass surveillance heralding Beyoncé singing over the menacing thump of *America Has A Problem*.

Ultimately, though, this was escapism at its best; underground club culture taken to the mainstream and held together by a superstar — the finale found her floating over the audience on a silver horse for the uplifting *Summer Renaissance* — charismatic enough to make sense of it all.

*BT Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh, Saturday; Stadium of Light, Sunderland, May 23; Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, London, May 29 to June 4*

# Audience for Radio 4 at lowest since 2007

**Alex Farber** Media Correspondent

Radio 4 dipped below ten million listeners in the first three months of the year to hit its lowest level since 2007.

The station had an audience of 9.4 million, down 11 per cent from the 11 million who tuned in at the start of last year, according to data from the measurement body Rajar.

The *Today* programme's audience fell 12 per cent year on year, from 6.5 million to 5.7 million. This figure was the lowest in 16 years, although Rajar modified how it measured listener numbers in 2021.

The station reported a 15 per cent increase in on-demand listening to its shows on the BBC Sounds app, helping it to a record 207 million plays of radio programmes and podcasts.

The proportion of downloads generated by Radio 4 programmes was not disclosed by the BBC, but the station accounted for nine of the ten most-played on-demand radio shows broadcast by the corporation. *The Archers* led the field, followed by *Desert Island Discs* and *The News Quiz*. Tony Blackburn's Radio 2 show *Sounds of the 60s* was the only entrant in the top ten not broadcast by Radio 4. The most popular podcast was *The Shamima Begum Story*, which was also played on BBC Radio 4.

Charlotte Moore, the corporation's chief content officer, said: "Radio 4 remains the home for trusted and impartial news, thought-provoking current affairs, ground-breaking documentaries and boundary-pushing comedy, arts and drama."

Radio 4 was the big winner at the Audio and Radio Industry Awards this month, winning seven prizes including network of the year.

Times Radio recorded its highest average listening hours, with its audience tuning in for 6.3 hours per week as total weekly listening grew to 3.5 million hours. TalkSport, its sister station, reported a 12 per cent year-on-year increase in listeners to 3.3 million, with TalkRadio up 30 per cent at 840,000.

# Flintoff left in agony after BBC crash

**George Sandeman**



**The presenter's accident took place while filming for Top Gear**

Freddie Flintoff was left waiting in agony for 45 minutes for an air ambulance after being involved in a serious accident during filming for *Top Gear* — and the car he was driving had no airbag, it was reported last night.

The former England cricketer, 45, had to be airlifted to hospital following the crash last December and the BBC later confirmed that it had abandoned filming of the current series after a health and safety investigation.

Flintoff has since quit his job as co-presenter of the show, which he fronted alongside Paddy McGuinness and Chris Harris, having joined the programme in 2019.

According to The Sun, he suffered severe injuries to his jaw and ribs after the crash at the Dunsfold Park aerodrome in Surrey. It also reported that the car had no airbag, he was not wearing a helmet at the time and that no medical stretcher could be found in the aftermath.

The car he was driving was a Morgan Super 3 which is a roofless, three-wheeled vehicle capable of reaching 130mph. During the accident in sub-zero temperatures it flipped on to its side and slid along the track. A crew member sitting in the passenger seat of the car was also understood to have been injured.

The Health and Safety Executive was informed of the incident but the investigation into the crash by the BBC is yet to be released.

It is not known if Flintoff, a married father-of-four, will return to television work. The broadcaster has already publicly apologised to him for the accident.

Richard Hammond, a previous host of the show, spent a fortnight in a coma after a high-speed crash in 2006.

Last month Charlotte Moore, chief content officer at the BBC, spoke about filming for the current series of *Top Gear* being abandoned.

She said: "My priority at the moment is supporting Freddie through his recovery so I think it would be really inappropriate for us to resume filming now." She added: "I think we've got to talk about what Freddie wants to do."

The long-term future of the show is also in doubt. An insider at the BBC said in March: "Like *Doctor Who*, it has proved that it can be reinvented. The programme has had a couple of incidents in its history and we might need to look a bit harder at whether we are getting the balance right."

Perry McCarthy, a former racing driver who played the character of The Stig on the show, said: "The presenters are enthusiastic but they need to be reined in. If they are put in a high-speed car and the pressure is on for them to go quickly then they need to have a think. They shouldn't be pushing the guys too far."

Another senior figure at the broadcaster said: "I'm not sure it can continue. The incident has left quite a stain on the show." In March, the BBC said: "BBC Studios has concluded its investigation into the accident which regrettably injured presenter Freddie Flintoff. We have apologised to Freddie and will continue to support him."

The BBC was contacted for comment.

# Woman mistook email 'xx' for kisses — then sued boss

**Jonathan Ames** Legal Editor

A technology specialist sued her boss for sexual harassment after he marked emails "xx" for more information — which she assumed were kisses.

Karina Gasparova told an employment tribunal that Aleksander Goulandris's use of question marks in the same message were code for asking her when she would be "ready to engage in sexual acts". She claimed that when her boss renamed a work file with his initials "ajg" it was actually an acronym for "a jumbo genital". The project manager also accused Goulandris of trying to "chat her up" as he ran his hands through his hair while "staring" at her.

Gasparova sued essDOCS, a technology company in London. She worked directly for Goulandris, who was joint head of the company and former chief executive, from 2019.

The central London tribunal heard that Gasparova told bosses she thought Goulandris wanted to have a sexual relationship with her and was treating her poorly because she had "rejected his advances". Gasparova claimed that her boss's behaviour included shouting, undermining her in meetings with clients and removing key elements of her work. She argued that Goulandris was a "rich and powerful man" and his conduct had not been "overt" because "a man in his position would be too clever" to make obvious approaches.

Gasparova gave evidence that in 2019, Goulandris touched her leg with his leg under a table and "stared at her", which made her "anxious and uncomfortable". The tribunal ruled that the incident had occurred but that it had been accidental and "innocuous".

The tribunal rejected Gasparova's harassment claims and in its ruling said her case "rested on interpreting seemingly innocent interactions" and "finding a sinister motive in them".

Judge Emma Burns said that Gasparova "demonstrated a tendency to make extraordinary allegations without evidence and she contradicted herself in a way that could not be attributable to a fallible memory". Gasparova must pay £5,000 to essDOCS in costs.



YUI MOK/PA

**Hey Jo** Joanna Roche poses in a recreation of Jimi Hendrix's flat at the Handel & Hendrix museum in Mayfair, London, which is set to reopen after renovations

# Shetland can count down to blast-off

**Kaya Burgess** Science Reporter

The countdown to the first space rocket blasting off from a British launchpad can begin in earnest, MPs have been told, with aviation regulators set to grant a licence to a spaceport in the Shetland Islands within months.

In a further boost for British plans to become Europe's leading nation in space, ministers said Japan's state space agency hoped to conduct rocket launches from UK soil in the future.

SaxaVord Spaceport on Unst is the country's first site with a pad for "vertical" launches. Britain's only operational spaceport to date, Spaceport Cornwall, is built for "horizontal" launches, in which a jumbo jet takes off carrying beneath its wing a rocket that detaches over the sea and blasts into space.

Bosses at SaxaVord hope to attempt a first rocket launch before the end of this year but they must wait for a number of licences to be granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.

SaxaVord management told MPs on the Commons science, innovation and technology committee that the speedy granting of licences was important to meet growing demand from private space firms.

# Boss 'blocked' Post Office IT investigation

**Tom Witherow**

The Post Office boss in charge of criminal prosecutions blocked a full investigation into the company's faulty Horizon IT system because "such an investigation will be disclosable" in trials, an inquiry was told.

Emails shown to the public inquiry into the Horizon accounting scandal showed that Post Office executives were planning an internal investigation of its IT system in early 2010 and intended to bring in external auditors from Ernst & Young to verify it.

When Robert Wilson, the head of criminal law, heard about the plans he opposed them, leading bosses to order a one-sided report that would only "confirm our belief in the robustness" of the system.

In an email to colleagues, Wilson expressed anger that he was not notified about the investigation, telling them he was "staggered" that he had not been included in the meeting, "given the nature of the discussions that took place".

Months later Seema Misra was jailed when she was eight weeks' pregnant, leading a senior Post Office lawyer to celebrate the fact they had "destroyed the attack on the Horizon system". Criminal prosecutions continued for five years and by 2015 as many as 700 had been convicted — wrongly. In closing statements for the third phase of the public inquiry, counsel for postmasters said the evidence heard in recent weeks showed senior Post Office staff knew there were bugs, but refused to investigate them. The Post Office denies its staff were aware of systemic faults and claims Fujitsu hid the errors in its Horizon system.

The inquiry was shown emails from 2010, beginning on February 26 when senior staff agreed to "a full investigation … into integrity issues, with conclusions/report provided". The email added: "Once … conclusions [are] drawn, [we will] gain external verification". They recommend Ernst & Young as the "most suitable partner [for] this".

When Wilson heard about the plans he sent an email dismissing the idea, because "such an investigation will be disclosable as undermining evidence on the defence in the cases proceeding through the criminal courts".

He wrote: "Inevitably the defence will argue that if we are carrying out an investigation we clearly do not have confidence in Horizon and … to continue to prosecute will be an abuse of the criminal process. Alternatively, we could be asked to stay the proceedings pending the outcome of the investigation."

If the Post Office kept prosecuting postmasters "knowing that there is an ongoing investigation to determine the veracity of Horizon could also be detrimental to the reputation of my team", he said, adding the investigation could result in appeals to the Court of Appeal.

An email chain on March 8 said that "taking into account Rob's comments", they can "confirm that what we are looking at is a 'general' due diligence exercise on the integrity of Horizon" and this was intended to "confirm our belief in the robustness of the system and thus rebut any challenges".

Since 2020 the Metropolitan Police have been conducting a criminal investigation into allegations of perjury and have interviewed two Post Office contractors, who acted as expert witnesses in trials between 2010 and 2013, under caution.




| Representation Example | Duration of Credit Agreement | Device Monthly Repayment | Credit Amount | Upfront Cost of Device | Total Amount Payable | Interest rate | Representative APR | Device Cost (cash price) | Airtime Plan | Monthly Cost of Airtime Plan | Length of Airtime Plan |
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| Google Pixel 7a | 36 months x | £12 = | £432 + | £19 = | £451 | 0% | 0% (This means interest free credit) | £451 | 8GB + 2 Benefits | £17 | 24 Months |

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# Show-off who killed passenger is jailed

Ali Mitib

The manager of a jewellery store was sentenced to more than seven years in prison yesterday after he killed a beautician when he lost control of his Range Rover at 110mph.

Rida Kazem's car ploughed through a Tesla dealership and landed on the tracks at the Park Royal Underground station in west London early on August 22 last year. Yagmur Ozden, 33, died after she was thrown from the car.

Zamarod Arif, 26, the only person in the car who was wearing a seatbelt, suffered serious injuries, including a broken arm and leg.

Kazem, 23, whose left leg was amputated below the knee after the accident, had been driving the women home from a night out in his Sport SVR, which was recorded hitting 110mph on the 40mph-limit A40 westbound. He pleaded guilty to causing death by dangerous driving and causing serious injury by dangerous driving.



Rida Kazem was said by the judge to have shown no "real remorse"





VICTORIA JONES ; JONATHAN BRADY/PA



Yagmur Ozden's sister Maya Kodsi and daughter Melek Ozden outside court. Melek's mother, right, was killed when the Range Rover she was in ploughed through a car dealership and onto railway tracks

Judge Martin Edmunds, KC jailed Kazem, from Greenford, west London, for seven and a half years and banned him from driving for more than 12 years.

Kazem entered the dock on crutches in front of a court packed with his family. He smiled at the public gallery after he was sentenced and left without using his crutches.

Members of Ozden's family sobbed as CCTV footage of the collision was played at Isleworth crown court.

Ozden's daughter, Melek, 13, , who now lives with her grandmother, read a statement to the court. She said she had "constant" thoughts about her mother's death.

"I miss my mum and it's very sad I can't change what happened," she said. "I miss her and that I can no longer hang out with her. She was my best friend.

"Every time I see a Range Rover I remember the accident so I can't get away from it … I have a constant daydream of my mum passing away. It happens every day."

She added: "I blame the driver for taking my mum away. I believe he's acting like it never happened."

Kazem, who had been accepted to study law at university, has previous speeding convictions, including one for driving at 95mph in a 50mph zone. He was banned from driving for six months in November 2020.

The judge said: "I have no doubt you were showing off to your passengers … your powerful car and also what you thought of as your superior driving skills. What is all too clear is your skills were all too inadequate."

The court was told that Kazem had suggested to the author of a pre-sentencing report and his psychologist that he had not been driving the car. The judge said he had "found no evidence of real remorse".

David Rhodes, defending Kazem, said he had accepted "through his guilty pleas that he was the driver".

Outside court after the sentencing, Melek said: "I'm not happy with the sentence today but I did feel sorry for him … it just doesn't give my mum any justice. It didn't show he was sorry, there was no respect and the outcome was horrible. Hopefully my mum does get justice some day."

Maya Kodsi, 37, Ozden's sister, said: "We left the court in so much pain. They took the decision, it's not enough and it's not fair."

## Man held after 13 car fires in Dorset

A man in his forties is being questioned by police about arson attacks on 13 cars in a Dorset market town.

The suspect, from Wimborne, was arrested following several fires on Sunday night. Two homes, including a flat where a family was sleeping, were also damaged in the fires.

It is believed that the arsonist used a motorbike and went from street to street using an accelerant to set fire to the cars. As well as 12 cars in the Wimborne area, a vehicle two miles away in Poole was torched. The attacks started at about 11.30pm on Sunday and the last one was at 2.26am on Monday.

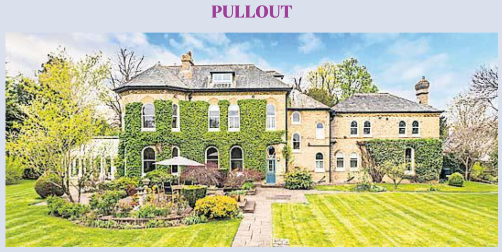
An NHS nurse was hailed a hero for saving a family. Lisa Dodd, 44, was about to go to bed when she noticed a light through her bedroom blinds. She looked out and saw a Ford Ka ablaze next to a neighbour's flat. She rushed outside and banged on a window to alert the family to the fire, which by that time had spread to the home. The family escaped, but their belongings were destroyed.

Chief Inspector Andy Edwards, of Dorset police, appealed for witnesses and said: "I urge anyone who may have home CCTV or doorbell cameras installed in those areas, and anyone with dashcam, to please check their footage to see if there is anything that could help us."

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# "Am I on it?"




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# Comment

# Britain isn't enough for our lofty leaders

## The political class fails to protect our national interests because it is bent on trying to internationalise policy-making

**Juliet Samuel**
@CITYSAMUEL



Simon McDonald, the former head of the Foreign Office, has transcended his country and he wants you to know it. He has become more interested, he told the New Statesman this week, in "planetary issues" than in Britain and has accepted, with Zen-like indifference, the growing irrelevance of the little country he served for so long.

What a pity most of us still care about this place. Not all of us have access or even desire to access the portal of importance McDonald has discovered in his book-lined study at Cambridge, where he is now a master, which has enabled him to shrug off the petty limitations of this stupid island of a mere 70 million heads. His advice, incidentally, is to avoid "making an enemy of China" and, to that end, to "break [with] Washington" if necessary. When in government, unsurprisingly, his advice was to build Huawei into our 5G network. This is the "planetary" way of looking at matters.

Thinkers who share McDonald's worldview have been in charge for decades and, despite clear signs from the population that they do not agree with his outlook or its implications, these ideas are still the default when it comes to developing policy. This mindset views the idea of nationhood as arbitrary and irrational. National pride, belonging and cultural cohesion are, to internationalist ruminators such as McDonald, secondary or even absurd concerns. The nation, they believe, is an outdated or even dangerous political creature, a force of racism and irrelevance. In this they are at odds with most peoples in the world, who in fact want to live in nations and not in blocs, empires or spheres of influence.

The belief that policy ought to be constructed on the basis of national sovereignty is the organising principle behind the conference on "National Conservatism" that took place in London this week, a gathering convened by the Israeli philosopher Yoram Hazony (at which I gave a talk on the need for a national industrial policy). Largely thanks to the label of "national conservative", which in this country generates an instinctive and unfortunate reaction along the lines of "whoa, isn't that like Nazis?", the event has been shrilly condemned in certain quarters as a powwow for crypto-fascists, crazy American Christians

> There is no conception that we should solve problems ourselves

and nasty racists. This may be nonsense, but it enables the critics to avoid grappling with the idea being explored: that national, rather than international, institutions should be in charge of decision-making and that good policy should operate in harmony with national cultures and norms rather than against them.

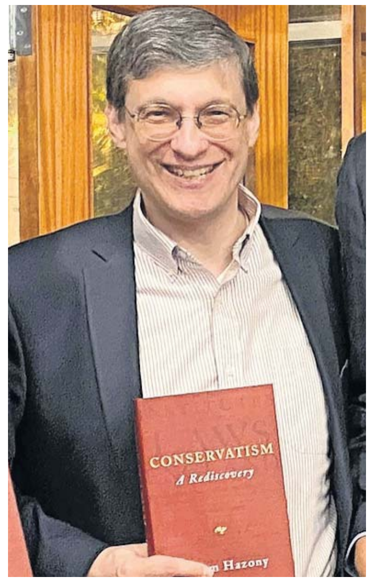
What does Hazony mean by a "nation"? In his book on the topic, he traces the idea back to the biblical founding of Israel and defines a nation as a people bound by a sense of mutual loyalty and culture (usually but not always including language and religion) and a history of banding together to see off external threats. A nation may be formed of many tribes, including religious and ethnic minorities, but it coheres so long as enough of us share sufficient common culture and loyalty to one another.

Since the Second World War, however, the West has been under the spell of an international vision involving spreading liberal ideals. The idea that we should export a liberal political system, either through bombs, as in Iraq, or through courts and economic zones, like the EU, is in the minds of many conservatives a false step. It overreaches by taking political action away from institutions rooted in loyalty and giving power instead to bodies that operate by coercion. The reason given for this being necessary is that it spreads peace, harmony and efficiency.

Unfortunately, an approach that flattens the world into one big policy sphere is a recipe for bad policy. Either it will fail to achieve its goals or it will inflict massive harm on national life in achieving them, and generate a backlash. The UK's approach to implementing net zero has failed on both counts.

Immigration is another example. Why is it that repeated promises to bring down migration are broken, so that we are expecting net immigration of more than a million this year? The problem is that the need to protect national cohesion by slowing the pace of population change is always seen as less urgent than some other more immediate problem, like the shortage of care workers.

The Tories are finding it impossible to reduce migration because they think like multinational corporate managers rather than national statesmen. Their habitual view is that if a division of UK plc — the NHS, farms or whatever — has a shortage,



**Yoram Hazony believes policy ought to be based on national sovereignty**

it must be plugged in the cheapest, quickest way possible. If this means adopting a policy that, over the long run, accelerates cultural and social change at an unprecedented pace, then so be it. Signs of national anxiety and backlash, such as Brexit and rampant nimbyism, are put aside. There is no conception that we should solve problems ourselves as a national community, by raising wages and expanding training, for example. Instead, people are seen as fungible.

Even this attitude, however, is mild compared with the wild liberal overreach on Labour benches. Labour is seriously considering expanding the franchise to millions of non-citizen EU residents living in the UK. EU residents already vote in local elections; now, the idea is to give them the same political rights as British nationals.

It is easy to see why Labour might want to do this for cynical reasons, to gain votes. But to anyone who opposes massive foreign interference in domestic politics, it is morally incomprehensible. To understand how anyone could justify such a move, one has to recognise that the British left has long regarded the idea of nationhood as distasteful and illegitimate. Labour politicians regularly argue that it is wrong to prioritise the interests of Britons over anyone who arrives here on a boat. Officially dissolving the distinction between national citizens and others is just the most brazen step down the same path towards dissolving the nation. We are, once again, in the realm of "planetary" thinkers.

Many of us, of course, hover between the McDonalds and the Hazonys of the world. The nation is fundamental, but arrangements such as EU membership have some advantages so long as their power to centralise remains weak enough. A lot of people in this position like to say they are happy to be "patriots" but not horrid "nationalists", a distinction Hazony rejects.

The real problem is not terminology. It is that we are being governed by a political class incapable of recognising and protecting our national interests: incapable because too many of them don't even believe those interests are legitimate. Either they will change their view or, ultimately, the voters will change them. Unless, that is, we are gerrymandered into submission.

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# When AI kills jobs, expect a white-collar revolt

## History teaches us to anticipate a violent response once middle-class prestige is under threat

**James Marriott**



@J_AMESMARRIOTT

I'm already catching the first spooky rumours of the next industrial revolution. At lunch, a friend mentions a bank where the jobs of a whole team of PhD-level financial analysts are at risk after a new AI model outperformed them. An acquaintance in PR uses Chat-GPT to write emails to colleagues she suspects are doing the same thing — the humans are intermediaries in a robotic correspondence.

From a friend in publishing, I receive a flurry of anxious texts worrying not only that many editorial assistant jobs will soon be automated but that some authors will be too. Apparently, the less imaginative kind of romance novelist is thought to be at particularly imminent risk. If that sounds implausible, recall that screenwriters in Hollywood are striking in protest at studio threats to introduce TV scripts generated by AI.

Since the Newcomen engine whirred into life 300 years ago, humanity has weathered a succession of dramatic technological revolutions. But we have never done this before — that is, we have never used technology to eliminate jobs that provide not merely a livelihood but riches, social status and existential purpose.

I know lawyers and journalists (both of which are professions at risk of automation, according to a chilling document published by Sam Altman's company OpenAI) who speak in basically religious terms of their "vocations". Altman promised the US Congress on Tuesday that the jobs abolished by GPT-4 will be replaced by "much better" ones. Even if you believe him, it's a dubious consolation. For many professionals there is no better job. I can't think of one I'd rather do. Pressing the "generate column" button on Marriott-GPT every Wednesday morning doesn't seem like it's going to be as fulfilling.

The nearest analogy in recent history is the destruction of working-class jobs by globalisation in the early 2000s. Though a career spent on the assembly line at a Midwestern car plant is not the sort of thing you boast about at a smart cocktail party, industrial labour provided generations of blue-collar workers with an identity, a community and a source of pride. The abolition of those jobs precipitated a cultural collapse — homelessness, social disintegration, the bleak advent of "deaths of despair". This misery and resentment helped to propel the political career of Donald Trump, a revolution that has threatened (and may yet end) American democracy.

> The French Revolution was led by disaffected lawyers and journalists

If generative AI does to white-collar workers what globalisation did to our blue-collar cousins, we should anticipate even wilder political chaos. Knowledge workers are history's most reliable revolutionaries. The popular notion that rebellion is fomented by pitchfork-wielding illiterates is wrong. The French Revolution was led by disaffected lawyers and journalists. So was the Russian Revolution. So was the Chinese Revolution. The political disturbances of the early 2010s in Turkey, Bulgaria and Brazil were all led by the angry middle classes.

An interesting paper, *Aspiring for Change: A Theory of Middle Class Activism*, published by academics at Hong Kong University in the aftermath of the (bourgeois-led) umbrella protests of 2014 found that across 78 countries middle-earners were more likely to participate in political unrest than those on smaller incomes.

Why? Well, the middle classes are more politically engaged. They have more time and more money. They are also measurably less cynical about politics than those on the lowest incomes, who tend to believe that one regime will be as bad as another; revolutions require hope. Most importantly, the revolutions of the past remind us that status is just as potent a historical force as money. A social class that is losing prestige is more volatile than one that is simply poor.

The historian Peter Turchin sets out a theory of political unrest in his forthcoming book *End Times* (precisely the sort of cheerful title that catches my eye when I'm moping around in The Times's books cupboard looking for ideas). Turchin argues that political disorder correlates with a phenomenon he terms "elite overproduction". When society trains too many citizens for too few positions of cultural and political power (eg in government or the media) it creates a new class of resentful "counter-elites" who are prevented from taking up the places at the top of society for which their educations have prepared them. Such people tend to be violently and destructively hostile to the system, which has barred them from the power and influence they believe they deserve.

Perhaps no students ever have been as intensively prepared for elite knowledge work as those studying in today's high-ranking universities: the expensive educations, the internships, the sacrifice of social and sexual life to brutal hours in the library. But these are precisely the people who may be about to graduate into a world that has no need for them. If the worst happens, they are going to be angry.

One of Turchin's more eccentric notions is that history can be mapped as a series of cycles of stability and disorder. It's hard to restrain one's scepticism when confronted with confident line graphs purporting to reduce centuries of complex political, economic and cultural change to a pattern of scary plunges and benign upward swellings. But, spookily, Turchin has long had the 2020s marked out as an age of instability. Even before anyone had heard of Chat-GPT. See you on the barricades, comrade.

THUNDERER

## Research into long Covid is crucial to get people working

**Sean O'Neill**

More than 2.5 million people of working age are not in employment because of long-term sickness — the highest number recorded. According to the Office for National Statistics there are "well over 400,000 more people outside of the labour market due to ill health" today than at the beginning of the pandemic.

The most common reasons for this are mental health problems among younger people, back and neck pain (possibly due to people working at home hunched over laptops) and an increase in people with post-viral fatigue.

That label covers a lot of those who are suffering from what has become known as long Covid, an unexplained condition that bears striking similarities to another poorly understood illness, ME (myalgic encephalomyelitis). Many scientists believe these two conditions are one and the same thing.

Both long Covid and ME appear to be triggered by an abnormal bodily reaction to a viral infection and are marked by common symptoms: prolonged and debilitating fatigue, dizziness on standing up, gastrointestinal problems, brain fog and a flare-up of symptoms after mental or physical exertion.

Hundreds of thousands of people in the UK struggle with these debilitating illnesses. They have to limit their activity and restrict time at school or work. Sufferers can become housebound and dependent on family carers. In the worst cases people die.

Medicine has no answers: there are no diagnostic tests, no drug treatments. That medical ignorance all too often leads to assumptions that patients are malingerers. They endure stigma on top of their symptoms. Yet, at the moment it is being acknowledged that post-viral illness is having an impact on the economy, research funding is drying up.

Professor Danny Altmann of Imperial College London, a groundbreaking immunology researcher, says research funding bodies (mainly big charities and government bodies) have "bailed out of any interest in following through to long Covid answers". There was interest and money during the pandemic and progress has been made. But that first tranche of research funding is drying up before any sustainable breakthrough.

Research funding for all conditions collapsed during the pandemic when funds were diverted to finding Covid vaccines. Now that the acute phase of the pandemic is over, long Covid researchers are having to compete with all the other projects caught in the backlog.

This is a short-sighted approach, just at the time when conditions such as ME and long Covid desperately need innovation, courage and long-term thinking.

**Janice Turner** Notebook

# Gentlemen's clubs prefer blondes to wear shoes

I arrive for lunch at an august Pall Mall club smartly dressed — I think — in a shirt, jacket and tailored trousers. But the doorman looks at my feet in dismay. "I'm sorry, madam, we don't allow trainers."

But these are *white* trainers, for years now the default female footwear for striding or Lime-biking between appointments. Pristine white trainers are worn with cocktail dresses, at the Baftas, or by the Princess of Wales. White trainers are the interregnum between winter boots and summer sandals, since all women's flat shoes, from brogues to ballet pumps, are vile. And you'd struggle to find a woman on London streets wearing heels in the day.

I wonder if I'll have to dash out for some loafers in St James's or drag my friend to a Pret across the road, when I remember I have a knee problem. The doorman looks relieved to have avoided an incident. "Well, if it's a medical issue … " he says and ushers me into marble-pillared grandeur where there are no other women at all.

### Subversive browsing

I do adore gentlemen's clubs: living museums with their food chits and communal tables where solo members can break bread. Most now admit women members, although early for an event at the Travellers, I was told off for browsing the library: "Ladies aren't allowed in here." Women reading is subversive? How retro.

I've never joined a club, being temperamentally unclubbable, but lately I've thought it might be fun to have a base. If money were no object, I'd choose the RAC for its exquisite pool, rather than flashy Soho hangouts for media types. Nicer to doze among the gentlemen in wingback chairs. Although I'll need new shoes.

### Simple scam

Given warnings that AI is taking over the world, where are our robot overlords when we need them? The scam committed by south London villains jailed this week involved nothing more complicated than buying an expired passport off a homeless bloke for £100 then renewing it with a photograph of a different person, a fugitive drug lord or a murderer, say, for £20,000.



The criminal mastermind Anthony Beard wasn't a genius forger frowning over watermarks or a computer hacker. He just sent these documents off to the Passport Office which, after a cursory glance, accepted the applicants had changed with age.

Why didn't the office issuing key government documents have the basic face-recognition technology that was used to cross-check my driving licence photo against my online image when I signed up recently to a car club?

### Birthday denial

I'm fascinated by people who refuse to celebrate their birthdays. I don't mean who only have low-key gatherings, but those who are furious if colleagues sign a card or their children acknowledge the date at all. Some are in denial about the tick-tick of time, and being assigned a number that does not correlate with how old they feel. Others find them painful: in the film *Return to Seoul*, birthdays make a woman adopted as a child think of the moment her Korean mother gave her away.

One birthday-denying friend had a 60th gathering last week and blew out candles for the first time since she was a child. She made a touchingly honest speech explaining that at 30, 40 or 50 she was busy, restless, self-critical, with so much left she yearned to achieve. But at 60, she'd allowed herself the luxury of reflecting that her angsty, birthday-swerving younger self would be OK with how things turned out — and grant her permission to celebrate now.

### In search of lost brands

The party was at the Museum of Brands in west London, a repository of advertising and old packaging. I noticed a display of Optrex, a product I never buy. But instantly I was back in my childhood kitchen, where every morning my half-blind father used it to bathe his good eye. Go. You're guaranteed a Proustian moment of your own.

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# Western unity is about to be severely tested

## With Biden distracted by a debt crisis and potential defeat by Trump, there is worrying scope for division and disorder

**Iain Martin**



@IAINMARTINI

Allies of the US will have to get used to being let down at short notice, it seems. President Biden had been due to travel to Australia at the end of this weekend's G7 summit taking place in Japan. The visit to Canberra has been cancelled, Australia's prime minister, Anthony Albanese, confirmed yesterday, because Biden has to go straight back to Washington to attempt to resolve the debt-ceiling crisis.

Warring US congressional leaders cannot agree on whether to increase the nation's $31.4 trillion borrowing limit. They have a deadline of June 1. Thus American alliance-building against China has fallen victim to the need for the president to be at home settling domestic disputes ahead of next year's election.

The incident is an early reminder that we are entering a particularly volatile period in international relations, with America's leaders distracted for at least the next 18 months by their nation's ever more febrile politics.

Over the scene hovers Donald Trump, looking again, quite incredibly, like the potential winner or even the favourite. Unless one of the Republican contenders way behind him in polling can win the nomination, it looks like a contest between a revengeful Trump and a fragile president who on November 5, 2024 will be a fortnight shy of his 82nd birthday. That is, if Biden runs. But right now there is no alternative.

While the US is trying to lead, rightly urging allies to stick with it in combating the rise of China and continuing to back Ukraine, it is going to be forced by its circus of an election to turn even further inwards. This means there is a high risk of a split in the West, of divisions widening between allies as they wait to see what emerges from the election, knowing that the return of Trump would change things, to put it diplomatically.

> While the US is trying to lead, it is going to be forced to turn inwards

Imagine the scope for disorder. On the Ukraine war, Trump is contemptuous of President Zelensky and has promised to sort the conflict out with the Kremlin in 24 hours, whatever that means. This is another reason the Ukrainian spring offensive must go well. The ideal outcome is significant Ukrainian gains and a negotiated settlement in place in the next six months to a year, before the US election.

On the defence of Europe, the US extended its commitment to Nato even when Trump as president criticised the organisation. The hope would be for a repeat next time, but he is unpredictable. A change in the White House would trigger angst in Europe about the extent to which the continent should defend itself or accept the reality that it needs vast US military support.

On China, Trump has promised to be hawkish again on trade, a position that may well be correct but which runs counter to French and German industrial interests seeking closer trading links with Beijing. President Macron last week hailed a €1.5 billion electric battery deal with China for investment in a factory in Dunkirk. The European Union has tried to co-ordinate a tougher line. The UK government's position is more hawkish, although there are some ministers who favour improving trade with China.

Climate change policy more broadly is an area rich with possibilities for division between the US and its allies. As the energy expert Daniel Yergin put it in *The New Map: Energy, Climate and the Clash of Nations*: "One striking difference between Europe and the United States is in the degree of consensus. In most of Europe, strong climate policies are embraced across the political spectrum. By contrast, divisions remain in the United States about policies, science and government spending."

A feature of gatherings of western leaders since Trump left office has been unanimity and warm words on tackling climate change. Trump subscribes to very little of this because his priorities are American economic growth and power. He could dump Biden's green subsidies in the Inflation Reduction Act or just extend them to non-green industries to harm Europe even more.

> There is only going to be turmoil between now and polling day

With the return of Trump possible, there is only going to be more turmoil between now and polling day during a long and precarious race. This month's debt crisis is itself deeply dangerous. Avoiding a potential global collapse in markets will require a Washington compromise soon, because if the president fails to get agreement then next month the US government ceases being able to fund itself, defaults on its debt and unleashes a tidal wave of economic ruin. Let's hope there's a typical fudge agreed.

This weekend at the G7 the public talk will be of western unity. There will be measures announced to combat China's Belt and Road Initiative, which provides loans with menaces to developing nations. The US and its allies will try to convince non-aligned countries to stick with them, if it's not too late already.

There will be public warnings issued to China, although the US and China are talking again in an effort to reduce tensions. Dialogue has been suspended since February and the "spy balloon" incident. Last week Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser, had talks in Vienna with China's top diplomat, Wang Yi.

The alliance that meets in Japan is in better shape now than it might have been after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The G7 countries — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US, plus the EU — and their allies have done better than feared in aiding Kyiv, although the US could have put more emphasis on the need for outright victory. The allies are also trying to find ways to decouple the West from over-reliance on Chinese manufacturing and to challenge Beijing's power.

Before and after Americans vote, that western unity is about to be severely tested.

# Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

## ADHD diagnoses

Sir, We are all being exploited by the overdiagnosis of attention deficit hyeractivity disorder ("Clinics hand out ADHD drugs online", May 16). I have observed a recent explosion in the number of Cambridge students given an ADHD diagnosis (an increase of about 50 per cent over the past two years), mainly by private clinics because the NHS waiting time is more than two years. Universities are being asked by students to fund private assessments (which cost £600 or more) to avoid the wait.

The treatment is amphetamines: powerful drugs with potential risks. The cost to the NHS is at least £60 a month per head, and one wonders where this extra funding is coming from. There is no advice from the specialists about when the treatment might end. In the past a very small proportion of severely affected school-age children benefited enormously from ADHD treatment for their school years, and then their treatment was stopped.

We are doing a disservice to many capable young adults. Sadly it is hard to see how we can reverse the trend.
**Dr Fiona Cornish** GP
Newnham Walk Surgery, Cambridge

## Social norms test

Sir, Suella Braverman says immigrants should adopt British values (May 16; letters, May 17) yet she cannot certify that her Illegal Migration Bill is compatible with international human rights obligations. When I became a British citizen I had to pass a "life in the UK" test showing I knew that British values included respect for the rule of law. Perhaps the home secretary could learn something about our shared fundamental values by looking at the test migrants sit that is set by her department.
**Thom Brooks**
Professor of law & government, Durham University

## Screening efficacy

Sir, I strongly disagree with Roger Fisken (letter, May 16) that breast screening is a waste of NHS money. I nursed my mother, who suffered a horrendous time before her death from breast cancer at the age of 77. As I approach that age I am grateful for the breast screening services available from the NHS. Numerous of my friends have had cancerous lumps detected as a result of NHS screening. It is to be hoped that early diagnoses will prevent more women from suffering the same fate as my mother.
**Helen Burnside**
Retired nurse, Wakefield, W Yorks

## Corrections and clarifications

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# Unease over Johnson's resignation honours

Sir, The very notion of awarding a "deferred peerage" to sitting MPs is, at best, constitutionally dubious ("Sunak faces three by-elections over MPs ennobled by Johnson", May 17). It blurs a boundary that exists separating membership of the two chambers. This proposal adds to the list of constitutional infractions perpetrated or attempted by Boris Johnson. Few people have done more, wittingly or unwittingly, to highlight weaknesses in the British constitution and make the case for reform than he has. If we fail to take note and appropriate action, then we can hardly complain if any future prime minister pushes beyond the bounds of constitutional propriety.
**James Mitchell**
Professor of public policy, University of Edinburgh

Sir, I wonder why prime ministers invest so much effort in their resignation honours when they cause so much trouble. Harold Wilson's Lavender List included some very dodgy businessmen, which were in reality the choice of his political secretary, Marcia Williams; David Cameron's list prompted Tim Farron to perceive "so many cronies it would embarrass a medieval court". Boris Johnson has always displayed a promiscuous largesse with honours: his brother Jo (presumably for being his brother) and Evgeny Lebedev (ennobled for throwing exceptional parties), and now seemingly a knighthood for his father, Stanley, rather than for Michael Gove, arguably his most able minister.

But if indeed three of Boris's chosen result in three by-elections the probable loss of them would wreck Rishi Sunak's careful attempts to stabilise the rocky Tory ship before the looming election. Nothing will so become his time in Downing Street than his manner of leaving it.
**Bill Jones**
Honorary professor of politics, Liverpool Hope University

Sir, The problem with the House of Lords is that it fulfils a useful and necessary function pretty effectively. People, though, are increasingly unaware of this fact, and one of the reasons they are unaware is the proclivity of prime ministers — and particularly former prime ministers — to bring it into disrepute. There is a paradox here that the Tories should consider: the more that people like Boris Johnson and Liz Truss insist on stuffing the Upper House with their mates and their donors, the harder it will become for Sir Keir Starmer (should he become prime minister) to resist calls for reform of the Lords.
**Professor Anand Menon**
Director, UK in a Changing Europe

Sir, Resignation honours are one of the most egregious remaining mechanisms of pure political patronage and are rightly often criticised. Resignation peerages, which Johnson apparently wishes to offer to four sitting MPs, undermine the reputation of the House of Lords and potentially its efficacy, especially where there are doubts about the quality of those appointed or their commitment to the role. Gordon Brown has come up with proposals for wholesale reform of the Lords, but whether or not such ambitious plans form part of the agenda of any future government, reform of the system of appointments is long overdue and should be seen as an essential element of urgent efforts to reverse the declining public trust in politics.
**Rebecca McKee**
Senior researcher, Institute for Government

## Labour and housing

Sir, It is encouraging that Sir Keir Starmer has vowed to make Labour the party of housebuilding ("Starmer: I'll allow more homes on green belt", May 17). But Labour must first have a plan to overcome two obstacles: first, a multitude of new homes cannot be built without local support. How will Labour achieve this outcome? Winning local support will take years and needs cross-party consensus on the ground. Second, Labour must learn to work with, not fight, speculators, who control much of the next generation of potential housing land. This cannot be done if land speculators and their land-owner partners expect to be deprived of the massive windfall profits that change of land use releases. With their army of highly paid consultants they will block Labour's hopes until there is another government in place.

Starmer is at risk of overseeing another decade of housing stasis. That would be a tragedy for the next generation and bad news for economic growth in England.
**Ian Campbell**
Richmond upon Thames

## First past the post

Sir, Further to the pleas for proportional representation (letters, May 16 & 17), here in Italy it would be pointless to write to my MP with a problem, even if I knew who he or she was, because they are chosen by a party list and their loyalty lies with whoever put them on that list, not with those who voted for them. Instead of the ebb and flow of the main parties, with the Tories or Labour edging left or right, Europhile or Eurosceptic, myriad tiny, temporary parties compete. While under first-past-the-post you can see what you are voting for, under PR parties form alliances after you have voted. First-past-the-post has its faults but it is the least worst system.
**Tim Hedges**
Panicale, Italy

Sir, Robert Court should be careful what he wishes for. Israel, with PR, still has a divided government without a clear mandate despite five elections in four years, and has to allow minority parties to dictate policy.
**Gerald Barnett**
Netanya, Israel

## Right to vote

Sir, Keir Starmer's suggestion, quoted in your leading article "Right to Vote" (May 17), almost describes my husband: he is French, has lived and worked here for 48 years teaching our future generations, has paid taxes and had a child who is also an educator. I understand the resistance to giving him the right to vote but he and others have made a valuable contribution to this country and help it to function. One has to remember that many in the UK who have the right to vote simply do not bother, dismissing its importance.
**Claire Richard**
Hurstpierpoint, W Sussex

Sir, Your leading article concludes that the 3.4 million EU citizens living in the UK with rights of residency should not have the right to vote. Many of these Europeans pay significant UK taxes. "No taxation without representation" brought about the secession of our American colonies. No representation without voting rights, in this case?
**Chris Crowcroft**
Penrith, Cumbria

## LORD CARNARVON'S WILL

**FROM THE TIMES** MAY 18, 1923

The Right Hon George Edward Stanhope Molyneux, fifth Earl of Carnarvon, of Highclere Castle, near Newbury, Hants, of Bretby Park, Burton-upon-Trent, and of 1, Seamore Place, W, who died at Cairo on April 5, aged 56, left property of the gross value of £398,925, with net personalty £274,376. His Egyptian collection is dealt with in a codicil, made on the same day as his will, but written in his own hand. He leaves this collection to his wife, adding: I would like her to give one object to the British Museum, one to the Ashmolean, and a fragment cup of blue glass (Thothmes Ill.) to the Metropolitan Museum, New York. Should she find it necessary to sell the collection, I suggest that the nation, ie, the British Museum, be given the first refusal at £20,000, far below its value, such sum, however, to be absolutely hers, free of all duties. Otherwise, I suggest the collection be offered to the Metropolitan, New York, Mr Carter to have charge of the negotiations and to fix the price. Should my wife decide to keep the collection I leave it to her whether she leave it to my son or to the nation or to Evelyn Herbert. I suggest, however, that she consult Dr Gardiner and Mr Carter.

The second codicil was made a few days before his death. It is dated April 3, and reads: "Give all my Bearer Bonds to my dear daughter." As directions as to his funeral the testator stated that he wished to be buried if possible on Beacon Hill, and he directed his executors to erect a mound of earth with trees or a stone, not to cost more than £50. If this burial were not possible he desired to be buried in Highclere Churchyard, next to his mother. He expressly desired that there should be no black horses or any sort of mourning used at his funeral, or any mourning afterwards; that the funeral should be exceedingly simple, and that two doctors should view his body before burial to make sure that life was extinct.

He left £500 to Mr Howard Carter; £100 to Dr Budge of the British Museum: £100 to the Inspectors at Paddington Station, to be divided between them: to eight old men and eight old women on the Highclere estate to be selected by his executors a good thick blue coat with a red collar each.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

## Baby crisis solution

Sir, I agree with every word in Alice Thomson's piece today about men taking equal responsibility for childcare — bar one ("Men you are the cause of our baby crisis", May 17). She uses the word "help". A father is surely not "helping" the mother of his child by taking his full share of the onerous duties (and indeed pleasures) of bringing up their offspring. He is simply doing his job as a father. Full-time motherhood is a full-time job. Motherhood combined with employment outside the home, as is the norm today, is actually two jobs. While it is increasingly the case that men recognise this and do pull their weight, many of them still expect to be "thanked" for their contribution rather than accepting it as an inalienable part of their roles as fathers. Until the language used for domestic and parental co-operation changes, we cannot expect full equality.
**Val Horsler**
Deal, Kent

## Rental reforms

Sir, Michael Gove is mistaken if he thinks that legislating to end no-fault evictions will somehow improve the rental market for tenants ("Rental reforms stop blanket bans on pets", May 17). In fact the opposite is true: thousands of private landlords will abandon the market, thereby reducing the stock of rental homes even further and pushing up rents.

My two-bedroom buy-to-let flat is held as an investment. If I have no power to end a tenancy agreement, then I cannot control when I sell my investment. That would be like buying shares with limitations on when I can sell them. No investor in their right mind would take on such a risk, particularly given the additional regulations coming into force. Hence I will be putting my flat up for sale at the end of the present tenancy.
**Robert Wood**
Reigate, Surrey

## Five-pound Pom

Sir, We went out to Australia as a family of seven "Ten-Pound Poms" in the mid 1950s ("Strewth, there's an awful lot going on down under", TV review, May 15). Although we experienced some of the things portrayed in the first episode — a six-week journey on a ship and time in a migrant hostel on arrival — my memories are of the kindness and support shown to us by the Australians we met, especially after we lost everything in the Blue Mountains bush fires of 1957. On one occasion an Australian came up to my father in the street and pressed a £5 note into his hand. We didn't stay and opted to repay our fare out and return home. But my recollections of the host community was more positive than that characterised in the first episode of this BBC series.
**David Stephens**
Brighton

## Amen to that

Sir, The wife of a clergyman I knew, when she considered that he had preached long enough, would drop her prayer book on to the church floor (letters, May 12, 13, 15-17). At this sign, he — even if in the middle of a sentence — would exclaim "Amen" and immediately leave the pulpit. I was present on several occasions when this happened.
**The Rev Sandra Lloyd**
Freshwater, Isle of Wight

## Daily Universal Register

**UK:** Quarterly statistics on knife crime; annual results for Royal Mail Group; quarterly figures for mortgage and landlord repossession claims; Ivor Novello Awards.

## Nature notes



The crab apple tree was in full bloom. The pink and white blossom was a riotous simmer of scent and buzzing. Spring has been cool and late-arriving here in the north of England, and the pollinators were feasting on this nutritious banquet. When you encounter the blazing exuberance of a blooming crab apple tree, it's easy to see how the legend of Shakespeare and his crab apple tree came about. The story goes that the Bard and some of his Stratford mates went for a booze-up in the countryside. On his return home, Shakespeare fell asleep under a blossoming crab apple. When he awoke, the tree had learnt the power of speech. JONATHAN TULLOCH

## Birthdays today



**Lionel Shriver**, pictured, novelist, *We Need to Talk About Kevin* (2003), 66; **John Bruton**, taoiseach (1994-97), EU ambassador to the US (2004-09), 76; **Caroline Charles**, fashion designer, 81; **Chow Yun-fat**, actor, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000), 68; **Lord (Patrick) Cormack**, Conservative MP (1970-2010), 84; **Prof Sir Anthony Epstein**, virologist, co-discoverer of the Epstein-Barr virus, 102; **Tina Fey**, comedian, creator of TV programme *30 Rock* (2006-13), 53; **John Godber**, playwright, *Bouncers* (1977), 67; **Keith Hellawell QPM**, chairman, Sports Direct (2009-18), 81; **John Higgins**, four-time world snooker champion (1998, 2007, 2009, 2011), 48; **Prof Dame Celia Hoyles**, mathematician, government chief adviser for mathematics (2004-07), 77; **Lt-Gen David Leakey**, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod and Serjeant-at-Arms, House of Lords (2011-17), 71; **Prof Malcolm Longair**, astronomer, Astronomer Royal for Scotland (1980-90), 82; **Miriam Margolyes**, actress, *The Age of Innocence* (1993), 82; **Prof Dame Henrietta Moore**, founder and director, UCL Institute for Global Prosperity, 66; **Yannick Noah**, tennis player, French Open champion (1983), 63; **Paul Nowak**, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, 51; **Guy Opperman**, Conservative MP for Hexham, employment minister, 58; **Natalia Osipova**, ballerina, principal dancer, Royal Ballet, 37; **William Herbert**, **Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery**, 45; **Prof Michael Sandle**, sculptor, the Malta Siege Bell Memorial (1992), 87; **Jacques Santer**, president, European Commission (1995-99), 86; **Richard Lumley**, **Earl of Scarbrough**, a deputy lieutenant of South Yorkshire, 50; **Manu Tuilagi**, rugby union player, Sale Sharks and England, 32; **Rick Wakeman**, keyboardist, Yes, 74; **Jessica Watson**, sailor, the youngest person to sail single-handedly and nonstop around the world, aged 16, 30; **Toyah Willcox**, singer, *I Want to Be Free* (1981), and actress, 65; **Adrian Wootton**, chief executive, Film London and the British Film Commission, 61.

## On this day

In **1955** the first Wimpy fast-food bar opened in London, in part of a Lyons' Corner House.

## The last word

*"Flowers are the sweetest things that God ever made and forgot to put a soul into."*
Henry Ward Beecher, clergyman and social reformer, *Life Thoughts* (1858)

# Build, Build, Build

### Tory inaction on housebuilding is failing a generation and stifling growth. Sir Keir Starmer's bold stance on new homes is to be applauded

This year marks a century since Noel Skelton, the Conservative MP, urged his party to build a "property-owning democracy". His aim was to transform "the status of the wage-earner to that of a property-owner". The method was to build houses they could afford. Britain's most successful prime ministers have all taken those words to heart. What united Clement Attlee and Margaret Thatcher was an understanding that to deny working people the opportunity to own their own home is to deny them full participation in social and economic life. It is now clear that Sir Keir Starmer understands this. On Rishi Sunak, the jury is still out.

Yesterday the Labour leader gave a Times interview and speech that should greatly encourage the generations of Britons for whom home ownership is an increasingly distant dream. Sir Keir clearly recognises the housebuilding famine in this country for what it is: a drag anchor on economic growth, the enemy of aspiration and a dangerous bar to social cohesion. To that end he has pledged to restore the target of 300,000 new homes a year, abolished by shortsighted Tory MPs opposed to any development at all. And he has dared to admit what has long been obvious to those thinking seriously about the housing crisis: it is time to look again at the green belt.

Nightmares of urban sprawl haunted Britain's postwar consciousness. The 1947 Town and Country Planning Act wrote them into the statute book, sanctifying the greenbelt — which amounts to just 12 per cent of rural England — out of all reasonable proportion. Times change. What Labour appears to be proposing is to give local authorities more power to release those pockets of greenbelt that are neither green nor pleasant — scrubland and disused petrol stations — for new development.

This is wholly sensible, provided developments are judicious and tasteful. So-called nimbys in the traditionally Tory shires are motivated less by selfishness than by an understandable fear that England's historic character will give way to concrete and plate glass. Sir Keir is a Surrey man by birth but these are not Labour's people. He should nonetheless listen to and assuage their concerns. Handsome, high-density and liveable developments that complement existing architecture should be his priority.

Sir Keir has yet to answer other important questions. He has quite rightly made much of Mr Sunak's failure to stand up to Conservative MPs opposed to housebuilding. But should Labour win power, will he be prepared to take the sort of bold stand he now makes from the comfort of opposition? And how can he at once promise to increase housebuilding while also promising to enhance the power of the very local authorities who so often block it? If voters are to put their trust in the opposition he must provide answers to these questions. But he is to be commended for choosing without equivocation to side with opportunity.

It says much about the boldness of Sir Keir's stand that Michael Gove, the most dynamic of Mr Sunak's cabinet ministers, looks timid by comparison. The housing secretary had the misfortune to introduce his Renters Reform Bill to the Commons on the very morning Sir Keir seized the mantle he ought to have made his own. Set against the abject failure of his government to build new homes, regulatory tinkering such as a ban on no-fault evictions, the introduction of rolling tenancies and a bar on multiple rent increases in a single year is, though welcome, at best unambitious and at worst merely a form of displacement activity.

Young families denied the security of their own homes will not be won over by Mr Gove forcing their landlords to let them keep pets. They need affordable houses in the places they want to live. Only Labour, it appears, is thinking seriously about building them.

# Drop of Comfort

### The water industry is finally recognising the need to clean up its act

Water companies are easy to demonise. They sell, or rather distribute, something that is fundamental and plentiful. And they have paid their executives and shareholders handsomely over the years from the profits of what are in reality regional monopolies. Their central obligation is to provide clean drinking and bathing water while protecting rivers, streams and beaches from the sewage pollution their waste-water operations generate. And, so far as the latter responsibility is concerned, they have failed miserably. Sewage spills in England last year averaged 800 per day, representing an appalling dereliction of corporate duty. Yet, still the bonuses for chief executives, some of them already paid in the millions, roll in.

The water industry has much to do if it is to regain public trust and head off calls for renationalisation. So the announcement in today's Times by Ruth Kelly, the new chairwoman of the industry body Water UK, that member companies are to spend an extra £10 billion on modernising the sewer system this decade is welcome. This money will be added to the £3.1 billion allocated for such works in 2020-25. And it will be accompanied by support for the creation of a hundred protected bodies of water for recreation, as well as a system providing comprehensive real-time information on pollution incidents. Not before time.

The water companies have made a rod for their own back in resisting pressure to reform their ways, including this newspaper's Clean It Up campaign. To her credit, Ms Kelly acknowledges this. In a mea culpa that is clearly the result of an intense public relations crafting exercise, she says: "We get why people are upset and they are right that we should have given this issue much more attention." She goes on to promise the most ambitious remodelling of the system since that undertaken by the Victorians to banish typhoid and cholera. This should cut spills into watercourses almost in half, from 300,000 last year by 140,000 in 2030.

Of course, there is the small matter of who is going to pay for this programme. Dominic Nash, an analyst at Barclays, suggests average annual domestic water bills in England, currently £448, could rise by £30. This is a hit but a manageable one for most families in isolation. Still, any increase grates when it comes from an industry previously lavish in its dividends, and still lavish in executive remuneration. Water companies still managed to splash out £1.4 billion in dividends last year while failing to fix endemic leaks and spilling sewage at a prodigious rate. The dividend total for all companies between 1991 and 2019 was £57 billion. At the same time, an increasingly lax regulatory regime allowed companies to cut investment in infrastructure. Today's belated announcement by the industry only serves to highlight the government's failure to grip this issue. In addition, Thérèse Coffey, the environment secretary, has yet to formulate a strategy to combat river and stream pollution caused by run-offs from farming, an equally huge problem. It should be a source of shame to all recent governments that only 16 per cent of England's waterways are currently rated as being in good ecological condition.

Tackling sewage spills fully is expected to take until 2050 and cost £56 billion. This goal is sufficiently distant to allow for plenty of backsliding in future. The battle to clean up our waterways and beaches is only just beginning.

# Common or Garden

### The Chelsea Flower Show stimulates debate on the nature of horticulture

Alan Titchmarsh, TV favourite and a vice president of the Royal Horticultural Society, thinks the RHS annual spring show in west London has tilted too far towards promoting environmentalism at the expense of celebrating traditional green-fingered excellence. Last year's best in show winner was called A Rewilding Britain Landscape. Its beaver dam, dry stone wall, timber walkway and native wildflowers served as a fine tribute to ecological restoration, argues Titchmarsh, yet showed scant evidence of gardening prowess.

Fellow presenters Monty Don and Joe Swift said much the same a year ago. Rewilding, they reckoned, requires vast acreage, not to mention expense. A strict rewilding policy — as in returning an environment to its natural state and then leaving it alone — is neither possible nor desirable in the average urban or suburban domestic garden. And indeed, such purism can result not in an Arcadian idyll, but a mess, fit only to showcase a broken fridge as its signature feature.

Advocates of rewilding reply that tastes have moved on from hanging baskets, immaculate lawns and gnomes. The English garden, they argue, is now more than geraniums in pots and roses around the door. Tradition can all too often become the enemy of innovation. Thus do the (horti) culture wars extend even into a seemingly consensual area of national life.

Perhaps the problem lies in the imprecision of the term? The old guard is correct that gardening describes human intervention with nature, and therefore cannot encompass the increasingly popular rewilding movement. And yet contemporary designers and younger enthusiasts are also surely right to promote native species, biodiversity and a less manicured, managed aesthetic? Dropping the "re" prefix and calling this trend simply "wilding" might present a suitable compromise.

# World

# We killed pro-war figures on Russian soil, says Ukraine

**Ukraine**
**Maxim Tucker**

The head of Ukraine's military intelligence service has admitted that his agents have assassinated Kremlin propagandists in the 15 months since Russia invaded.

He also said that Kyiv aimed to establish a demilitarised border zone up to 60 miles inside Russia to deter any future attacks; comments that will stoke fears of escalation in the war.

"We've already successfully targeted quite a few people. There have been well-publicised cases everyone knows about, thanks to the media coverage," Major-General Kyrylo Budanov, 37, said when asked whether Ukrainian security services had killed Russian propagandists.

Several influential pro-war figures have been killed or wounded by explosives planted on Russian soil since February last year. In the latest such incident, on May 6, Zachar Prilepin, 47, a celebrated writer who had boasted of killing Ukrainians "in large numbers", suffered two broken legs in a car bombing that also killed his bodyguard. The attack took place near Nizhny Novgorod, 265 miles east of Moscow.

Russian investigators said they were questioning a suspect named Alexander Permyakov, whom they accused of working with Ukrainian intelligence.

Vladlen Tatarsky, 40, a military blogger and an acolyte of the Wagner boss Yevgeny Prigozhin, was killed by explosives hidden in a bust of himself given to him in a St Petersburg café during a pro-war event on April 2.

The Russian internal affairs ministry said an arrest warrant had been issued for Yuriy Denisov, a Ukrainian citizen they claim surveilled Tatarsky for two months from an apartment near his home. It alleged he had travelled from Latvia under instruction from the "Ukrainian special services".



General Budanov said Russians guilty of war crimes would face "liquidation"

In August last year Darya Dugina, 29, a pro-war pundit for the state-controlled RT television channel, was killed by a car bomb thought to have targeted her father, Alexander Dugin, the ultranationalist ideologue said to have influence over President Putin.

Drone strikes on the Kremlin on May 3, apparently intended to kill Putin, had taken place "because of Russian aggression", Budanov claimed.

Speaking on Different People, a Ukrainian YouTube channel, Budanov said that recent acts of sabotage inside Russian territory, including a cargo train derailment and attacks on oil and gas infrastructure close to the Ukrainian border, had been carried out "almost 100 per cent by citizens of the Russian Federation".

In a separate interview with Island, another YouTube channel, Budanov said he had "a minority of Russians" cooperating with his Ukrainian military intelligence agency, the GUR. They were motivated by "patriotic reasons" and "ready to change Russia", he said.

Budanov stressed that although Putin was a legitimate target, Ukraine was not making attempts to kill him.

His agents would continue to target those Russians who committed war crimes against Ukraine, he said. "These cases have happened and will continue. Such people will receive a well-deserved punishment, and the appropriate punishment can only be liquidation and I will implement it."

Budanov blamed Russian propagandists for the Kremlin's increasingly brutal tactics in Ukraine, trapping Putin in a vicious cycle from which he could not escape with his life. "[The Kremlin] have invested so much in this propaganda machine that it began to influence them in the end."

He said that Moscow's business elite was opposed to the war and looking for ways to end it. Russian oligarchs have lost billions of dollars due to western sanctions and economic pressure, but criticism of the invasion has been rare and muted.

Dissidents who have spoken out against it have been imprisoned or poisoned. Natalia Arno, the founder of the Free Russia foundation, who fled to the US in 2014, said that she too was the victim of foul play during a recent visit to Europe: her hotel room was broken into and sprayed with what smelt like "cheap perfume", but may have been a nerve agent that left her in "acute pain".

If the Russians themselves overthrew Putin, Ukraine would still need to establish a demilitarised zone 60 miles inside Russian territory to prevent future conflict, Budanov argued. "This should be our goal. If they are not going to attack and don't decide they want revenge in a couple of years, this shouldn't be an issue."

**Western unity is under strain — and not just on Ukraine, Iain Martin, page 27**




The journey starts here **Young boys in training to be novice monks take a break**

# Calling our baby Putin 'was a mistake'

**Russia**
**Maxim Tucker**

A Tajik family who moved to Russia and changed their baby's name to Putin to show their love for the president are pleading with officials to let them rename their son, according to a local register office chief.

Nearly six years after renaming the boy, the parents of Putin Dzhuraev, now eight, say they regret it and want him to be called Rasul once more, as he was at birth.

"The parents have already turned to us again," said Ekaterina Belous, head of the Alexandrovsky district register office in Vladimir oblast, east of Moscow. "We're consulting with them. Let's just say they regret that they did it," she said in a televised interview with the local newspaper New City of Alexandrovsk. Little Putin's cousin, named Shoigu after the minister of defence, Sergei Shoigu, was keeping his name for now, she added.

The family moved to Russia in the 1990s during a fierce civil war in Tajikistan, and have all adopted Russian citizenship. In 2016 the boy's grandfather Rahmon Juraev, a fan of President Putin, read that an Egyptian journalist had named his son after him. "Vladimir Putin is the number one man in the world for me. Strong, smart and educated. My grandson looks very similar to Putin as a child, and I, without hesitation, decided to change the name of the child," Juraev told the BBC Russian Service at the time.



The boy, with his father, was renamed after the president six years ago

President Putin was once hailed in Tajikistan as a great leader, with pop groups dedicating songs to him and his picture hung in homes. Since the invasion of Ukraine, the president has become less popular in central Asia.

Russian enlistment officers tour the country's mosques for migrants from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, offering high pay and expedited citizenship in exchange for signing up to fight in Ukraine.

There have been reports of soldiers from central Asia being bullied and beaten by their Russian comrades. Some have been recruited against their will or tricked into signing papers, migrants' rights activists told Eurasianet.

# Grab a seat at Macron's

**France**
**Charles Bremner** Paris

President Macron's promise that the Paris Olympics will be a "People's Games" is in doubt after it emerged that the cheapest seat for the opening pageant will cost €2,700.

The steep price of a spot on the Seine embankment to watch the parade of waterborne athletes on July 26 next year became clear when places at the opening ceremony went on sale.

The authorities say that a free view of the four-mile procession through the centre of the city will be available from some spots, but word of the seat price has compounded anger over the cost of watching the Olympic events.

Joining in a chorus of contempt, Alexis Corbière, a leading MP for the radical left Unbowed France party, noted that €2,700 was more than double the French monthly minimum wage. "For these 2024 Games, the important thing is not to take part but to be one of the richest people on this planet," he tweeted.

Initially 600,000 people were to have watched the pioneering water parade of 10,000 athletes aboard 180 boats, but for security reasons plans have been scaled back to about 450,000 and 150 craft.

The organising committee, headed by Tony Estanguet, is under fire for providing too few cheap seats in the two rounds of sales that began with 3.25 million tickets sold in February and March.

In the latest sale, of 1.5 million tickets, which opened a week ago, some

**Meloni 'leading purge of critics from state TV'**
Page 32



**Clam shack owners go into battle against big fish**
Page 33

SOO-HYEON KIM/REUTERS




during their three-week stay in a temple to enjoy a day out at Everland theme park in the city of Yongin, South Korea

# Opposition claims Erdogan loyalists doctored ballots

**Turkey**
**Hannah Lucinda Smith** Istanbul

Turkey's opposition is claiming that tens of thousands of votes cast in Sunday's elections were entered wrongly into the official registration system, potentially handing President Erdogan and his party a larger share.

Muharrem Erkek, vice-chairman of the CHP, the main opposition party, said that discrepancies had been detected in results from 2,269 ballot boxes for the presidential polls and in 4,825 boxes for the parliamentary polls. There are 201,807 boxes in total.

According to the electoral board's figures, Erdogan took 49.5 per cent in the presidential elections and Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the opposition's presidential candidate, took 44.9 per cent.

In some cases where Kilicdaroglu took more votes than Erdogan, their tallies appear to have been swapped. In other cases, Kilicdaroglu's votes were transferred to Muharrem Ince — a fringe candidate who pulled out of the race on Thursday — after ballot slips had been printed, meaning that he still appeared as an option on polling day. He took 0.4 per cent of the vote, according to the electoral board, while a fourth candidate, Sinan Ogan, took 5.2 per cent.

A run-off vote between Erdogan and Kilicdaroglu will be held on May 28. Erkek said that where discrepancies were confirmed, the register was being amended.

The results confounded pollsters, most of whom expected Kilicdaroglu to win. "Since the beginning of March we have done 53,000 interviews, both face to face and over the telephone. In not a single survey was Erdogan ahead of Kilicdaroglu," Can Selcuki, founder of the polling company Turkey Report, said. In the parliamentary elections Erdogan's coalition scraped a majority of 323 seats in the 600-seat parliament with 49.5 per cent of the vote.

There appear to have been multiple instances where votes awarded to Erdogan's AK Party or the allied nationalist MHP were inflated, mostly to the detriment of the HDP, the main Kurdish party, and the left-wing Workers' Party.

The HDP, which ran in the parliamentary elections under the party name Green Left, said it had raised objections separately over the results from 1,000 ballot boxes.

The discrepancies began to emerge on Tuesday when the CHP opened a website allowing Turks to check the "wet signature" tallies, which are counted at the polling stations and watched by monitors and independent observers, against the numbers entered into the electoral board's register.

The presidential communications bureau, run by Erdogan's arch-loyalist press chief, Fahrettin Altun, hit back, claiming that the results on the CHP's website were not from the electoral board. But that is impossible to check: the officially registered results, searchable by ballot box, are usually publicly available on the board's website as soon as they have been entered but by yesterday morning that data was still unavailable. The CHP's website was also briefly blocked on Tuesday night.

It is unlikely that the transferred votes would have been enough to change the outcome of either election, but the row has further eroded Turks' trust in the electoral board, which has final jurisdiction over election results and is dominated by Erdogan loyalists. In 2019 it overturned the results of Istanbul's local election, which the opposition had won by a narrow margin, citing irregularities at some polling booths. Erdogan and his allies had leant on the board to take the decision.

Erkek vowed that the opposition would follow each vote "one by one".

Ahmet Davutoglu, the former prime minister who defected from Erdogan's party, said that every wet signature result might have to be re-entered into the electoral board's system. Kilicdaroglu has yet to make a statement on the claims.

# People's Olympics — at €2,700 a ticket



The opening ceremony will feature athletes aboard boats on the Seine

categories have sold out but the remaining seats cost hundreds of euros. Entry to athletics begins at €680, swimming at €500 and gymnastics at €480.

The organisers say that high demand had meant that cheaper tickets, allotted by a draw, were snapped up within minutes at the start of each sale period.

Four million people signed up for the chance of entry to the second sale of 1.5 million tickets.

Estanguet, a former champion slalom canoeist, has argued that tickets are less expensive than at the 2012 London Games, but critics have pointed out that London offered double the number of low-price tickets.

Estanguet said he realised that the second round of ticket sales would "cause disappointment and frustration".

Amélie Oudéa Castéra, the sports minister and a former professional tennis player, defended the prices. "The Olympic Games are every four years and ours are the usual prices. We don't ask ourselves these questions when we pay to go see a Madonna show," she said. Nevertheless, a poll for RTL radio found that 82 per cent of the French population believed the tickets to be overpriced.

The organisers are counting on tickets bringing in €1.4 billion of the total games budget of €4.4 billion. At the end of the year, a third draw is intended to release the sale of the remaining 5.5 million tickets.

Priority is being given at the Games to expensive "hospitality" packages, which are expected to generate 15 per cent of the takings through the sale of 870,000 tickets that give entry to VIP venues and other sites.

Places on a hospitality boat moored on the Seine close to the Trocadero, where the opening pageant finishes, are on offer at €12,500 a piece.

# Indian police told to shed reputation as fat brawlers

**India**
**Amrit Dhillon** New Delhi

Lose the jowls and paunch or lose your job — that is the ultimatum police bosses in India have given their officers.

Himanta Sarma, chief minister of the northeastern state of Assam, said that 300 police officers — from the largely male 60,000-strong force — were fat, unhealthy drunkards who regularly got into brawls at police stations.

"There are around 300 officers and personnel in the Assam police who drink habitually, and drinking has completely damaged their bodies," Sarma said. "There is a government provision for them to get voluntary retirement and continue getting their full salary. Youngsters will be able to replace them."

Gyanendra Pratap Singh, director-general of the force, has given the officers until August 15 to get in shape. They will then have their body mass index calculated, with unfit and overweight officers being asked to retire. Those who were very obese to begin with will be given six months to slim. Singh will lead by example as the first to be assessed. "I keep very fit and I avoid rich and oily food," he said.

The message appears to be getting through. "Attendance for physical exercise sessions has gone up and more men are going for a run," he said.

IPA/FOTOGRAMMA/SPLASH NEWS; LOCAL TEAM









**Fatal floods** Rimini was hit by flooding that killed eight people in northeast Italy. A baby was rescued from rising waters in Cesena. Grand prix cancelled, page 64

# Meloni on mission to purge Italian state broadcaster of 'left-wing bias'

**Italy**
**Tom Kington** Rome

Giorgia Meloni is "purging" Italy's state broadcaster of opponents of her government after the sudden departure of the country's most popular chat show host, according to critics.

Fabio Fazio, whose contract has expired, left the Rai network this week as the prime minister drafted in new senior executives to combat what they claim is left-wing bias at the broadcaster's three television channels.

Fazio drew large audiences for his long-running show, which featured guests such as Barack Obama and the Pope, and he has defended migrant rights, angering the Italian right.

Alleging in 2017 that Fazio was being overpaid by Rai, Meloni said: "Every week he explains to us how the world should work." She called on Italians to "rebel" and boycott his show.

As Fazio left the broadcaster and signed a contract with a private TV channel, Matteo Salvini, a hard-right coalition government ally of Meloni, gloated on Twitter.

Fazio hit back, saying: "Politicians feel justified by electoral results to behave like the owners of things which are public owned."

He was backed by Sandro Ruotolo, a senator with the opposition Democratic Party, who said: "This right wing is grasping and vindictive."

The new head of Rai 1's evening news programme, Giampaolo Rossi, has railed against the financier George Soros, another hate figure for the far right, while media reports have suggested that the broadcaster's new managers will hand airtime to Pino Insegno, a comedian who comperes rallies for Meloni.

Another rumoured new entry is the actor Luca Barbareschi, a former MP with Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia party, who recently argued that actresses accusing directors of molesting them were publicity seekers.

Meloni's move to oversee new appointments at Rai after her election victory last September is nothing new in Italy, where the network has long been packed with political nominees by all parties, in part to hand jobs to supporters and also to ensure favourable news coverage.



**Fabio Fazio, who defended migrant rights, left his chat show this week**

In the 1980s the Rai 1 channel was controlled by the Christian Democrat party, Rai 2 by the Socialists and Rai 3 by the Communists.

"Rai 3 is still a left-wing enclave and will likely remain so under Meloni," said Antonio Polito, a commentator with the newspaper Corriere della Sera.

Berlusconi, a former prime minister, was once recorded by a wiretap urging a Rai manager to give jobs to his young female acquaintances.

Aldo Cazzullo, a Corriere della Sera columnist, said that Berlusconi's meddling at the broadcaster had been particularly ominous since he controlled his own, private, Mediaset TV network.

"However it is also true that Berlusconi never tried to oust Fabio Fazio," he said.

Meloni's attempt to take control at Rai coincides with her party's crusade against what it considers left-wing bias pervading the whole of Italian culture and its attempts to replace it with nationalist energy. Her culture minister Gennaro Sangiuliano, who has claimed that "little Stalins" populate Rai, recently said that Italy needed to fight "journalist police officers" who enforce political correctness.

# Green party official sacked for appointing his friend

**Germany**
**Oliver Moody** Berlin

A prominent official in Germany's Green party has been dismissed after it emerged that he put a friend forward to lead the national energy agency and signed off on government funding for his sister's environmental organisation.

Patrick Graichen, 51, the top civil servant in the business ministry, had been charged with spearheading the shift away from Russian fossil fuels and towards clean energy.

He oversaw the delayed demise of the country's last nuclear power plants, the successful dash to fill its gas storage facilities last summer and plans for a dramatic expansion of wind and solar power. He was nicknamed "Mr Heat Pump" for drawing up proposals to ban the installation of new gas or oil central heating systems from next year.

However, Graichen became a lightning rod for criticism of what his opponents characterise as a nepotistic "green octopus" of eco-activists, lobbyists and personal acquaintances with its tentacles wrapped around the levers of economic power.

He first came unstuck last month after Michael Schäfer, a fellow Green politician, was chosen to take over the German Energy Agency, a state-owned company doing environmental consultancy work for public authorities and the private sector.

Schäfer had served as best man at Graichen's wedding. Graichen put his name forward for the job and served on the committee that made the decision.

Since then he has been characterised by his critics as a green ideologue at the heart of a tight-knit "family clan" in the upper echelons of government.

Graichen's sister Verena — who is married to Michael Kellner, another senior Green party figure and state secretary in the same ministry — sits on the department's hydrogen expert advisory panel. Robert Habeck, the Green vice-chancellor and business minister, spent weeks defending Graichen, calling him "the man who saved Germany from a severe energy crisis". However, Graichen's position became untenable and he was sacked.

Habeck conceded that the choice of director for the energy agency had been a "mistake".

He also said that a review showed Graichen had approved €600,000 in government funding for the Berlin branch of Bund, an environmental group. His sister sits on its board and used to be its regional chairwoman.

Habeck said that his right-hand man had left himself "too open to attacks".

# Sarkozy must wear tag after court defeat

**France**
**Adam Sage** Paris

Nicolas Sarkozy, the former French president, was ordered to wear an electronic bracelet for a year after an appeal court upheld his conviction for corruption and influence-peddling.

It is another blow to the reputation of a man who regards himself as the elder statesman of the French centre-right.

The Paris Court of Appeal found him guilty of promising to obtain a plum job for a senior judge in return for inside information on a case involving him in 2013. He was sentenced to three years in prison, two of which were suspended.

The court said he would not be sent to jail for the remaining 12 months and would instead be allowed to serve time at home with an electronic bracelet. The procedure is common in France.

Sarkozy, 68, who was head of state from 2007 to 2012, left the courtroom without commenting. He had urged the appeal judges to quash the sentence handed down by a lower court two years ago. Instead, they confirmed it.

Jacqueline Laffont, Sarkozy's lawyer, described the decision as "stupefying" and said he was innocent. She said he would appeal to the Cour de Cassation, France's highest court, which means he will not have to wear the electronic bracelet for the time being.

Sarkozy's legal woes are many. He is appealing against a one-year jail sentence for illegally funding his 2012 presidential election campaign, and prosecutors want him to stand trial over claims that he received millions of euros from Muammar Gaddafi, the late Libyan leader, for his 2007 campaign.

He denies all the allegations. His supporters argue that he is the victim of a witch-hunt conducted by France's largely left-wing judges.

# Trans lesson puts pressure on minister

**Adam Sage** Paris

The private school where France's education minister sends his children is facing controversy after transgender activists reportedly told pupils that men can get pregnant.

The row erupted as Pap Ndiaye launched a nationwide campaign to fight homophobia and transphobia in the country's state schools.

Parents complained after members of OUTrans, a non-binary support group, spoke to 14-year-old pupils at the École Alsacienne in Paris, accusing some pupils of being "transphobic" when they contested the notion that men could get pregnant, according to the newspaper Le Figaro. Parents accused the association of distilling "propaganda".

Brice Parent, the school's head teacher, said: "The aim of these interventions was to talk about discrimination [against] LGBT [people] and to recall what the law says and to fight against stereotypes. From that point of view, the objective was not achieved."

Some parents suggested that Ndiaye himself was behind the intervention, but the school denied this. Ndiaye is fighting to keep his job after falling out with the conservative wing of President Macron's centrist coalition.

# Cologne embraces change to become world's most sexually liberal city

**Germany**
**Oliver Moody** Berlin

"Secure a spot in the madhouse early," Konrad Adenauer, West Germany's first postwar chancellor, told one of his sons at the dawn of the sexual revolution in the 1960s. "The world is going crazy."

Back then Cologne, Adenauer's home town in the Rhineland, was a stronghold of social conservatism where most women voted for the chancellor's Christian Democratic Union party and its traditionalist "children, church, kitchen" agenda.

One wonders what he would make of a magazine that has named Cologne as the world's most sexually liberal city, ousting New York from the top of the rankings. "Cologne is world famous for its carnival and cathedral," the German-based Lust magazine noted. "But for many residents of this cosmopolitan, tolerant city, sex is the new religion." The report noted 23 annual LGBT events, four large gay pride festivals, 17 gay bars and 19 sex shops in a population of just over a million people.

"The city is a true model of liberality and openness, especially in the sexual sense, and residents wholeheartedly welcome like-minded visitors," it said. "Cologne celebrates everyone's uniqueness."

The city has come a long way since the straitened moral climate of the 1950s under Adenauer, when "fornication" between same-sex couples was punishable with jail and the Church led a crusade against naturists, homosexuals and "pornographic" novels such as *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

Adenauer, confronted with rumours that Heinrich von Brentano, his foreign minister, was secretly gay, replied: "Well, he hasn't tried it on with me yet."

Today prostitution is legal, gay couples can marry in Germany, the federal government is preparing to allow people to formally change their gender at will and access to contraception and prophylactic drugs against HIV is straightforward, although abortion remains tightly regulated.

Lust magazine ranked West Hollywood in California second on its list, followed by Amsterdam, Madrid and Berlin. New York fell from first place to 11th, while London came 14th.

# Seafood shack owners prepare for legal battle against big fish

**United States**
**Will Pavia** New York

In the Old Testament story of David and Goliath, the Philistine champion had a bronze suit of armour and a javelin slung upon his back, and the Israelite went into battle with five smooth stones from a stream.

A similarly uneven battle has now commenced on the island of Nantucket, Massachusetts, where a billionaire has opened a lawsuit in an effort to prevent a clam shack from opening on a wharf beside his summer cottage.

Charles Johnson, 90, whose wealth is estimated at about $5 billion, has sued the two restaurateurs behind the shack, along with the town board that approved the project and the commission that granted it a licence to sell alcohol.

Gabriel Frasca, 49, and his partner Kevin Burleson, 40, came before the town board in March, seeking to reopen a fish market on the wharf. There was an old ice cream parlour and a storage facility beside it. "We'd like to make that a clam shack" akin to "the restaurants that I grew up going to", Frasca said. "A simple family restaurant."

Johnson, who also lives in Palm Beach, Florida, made his fortune at an investment firm. He was represented at the meeting by an attorney named Danielle deBenedictis. "We flew here from Florida in spite of the storm, etcetera, to make our utmost opposition known to you on a personal level," she told the board. "Mr and Mrs Johnson live eighteen inches away from this proposed new restaurant."

In a letter to the board before the meeting, she said that her clients' cottage, named Omega, was part of the historic "Old North Wharf", "originally built in 1723", and "one of the four historic wharves" in Nantucket's harbour.

Two centuries ago, she added, these wharfs were used by whalers. Now its old cottages are expensive. Another is owned by the investor Charles Schwab, one of the world's richest men, and DeBenedictis said she was also representing him, despite his apparent previous agreement to the plan.

The board approved the market and clam shack by a vote of three to one. The following month a lawyer for Charles and Helen Schwab wrote to the town board, saying they had been told it would be a nightclub. When "a review of the permits disproved this", they said, they decided to support the venture, their lawyer, Steven Cohen, wrote.

"We all look forward to enjoying a fresh clam roll and cold soft-serve twist cone on the harbour," he added.

Johnson's lawyer has filed a lawsuit appealing against the decision to grant the shack a liquor licence.

Frasca said that he and his partner would represent themselves in court. "The opposition is able to hire anyone that they want," he said. "The notion of us trying to outlawyer them seems like a pretty Sisyphean task." But he added: "These are simple rules to understand. The applications are two pages long."

Frasca acknowledged that the Johnsons's cottage was historic. "These were working shanties," he said. "This has been a working wharf for hundreds of years." When Herman Melville visited the island, the year after he wrote *Moby Dick*, "there would have been whale oil burning within ten yards of this," he said. "Which, by the way, will not be on our menu."

CLAUDIO LAVENIA/BULGARI/GETTY IMAGES



All that glitters **Anne Hathaway at the Bulgari Mediterranea High Jewelry show in Venice, wearing a gold and silver dress by Versace with a detachable hood**

# Only way is up for sherpa after record Everest climb

**Nepal**
**Amrit Dhillon** Delhi
**Dewan Rai** Kathmandu

Conquering Everest is seen as a once-in-a-lifetime achievement, but for Kami Rita the feat is almost a habit.

The Nepali sherpa, known as Everest Man, has climbed the world's highest mountain for the 27th time, breaking his own record, while guiding a Vietnamese climber.

Rita, 53, first reached the 8,849m (29,000ft) peak in 1994, and has done it again almost every year since.

Yuvaraj Adhikari, a shopkeeper in Kathmandu, said: "He is a household name in Nepal — his name is linked with Everest. Everyone knows him."



**Kami Rita, 53, first reached the summit in 1994**

Nepal is home to eight of the ten highest peaks and welcomes hundreds of adventurers every spring.

The interest in Everest is making base camp look like a bus station, , and sherpas make climbing it look like catching a bus. On Sunday, Rita's friendly rival, Pasang Dawa Sherpa, 46, did it for the 26th time.

Rita's father was among the first professional sherpa guides after Everest was opened to foreign mountaineers in 1950, and his brother is also a guide. Rita has made sure his children are educated so that they have less dangerous career options.

Everest has been climbed more than 11,000 times Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay did so in 1953. Many people have climbed it several times, including the British mountaineer Kenton Cool, who reached the peak for the 17th time yesterday, extending his own record for the most summits by a non-Nepali.

# Clean up your act: official app to show if men shirk housework

**Spain**
**Blanca Schofield**

Spain has announced plans to introduce an app that promises to address the gender imbalance of housework by getting users to log the hours they spend on chores.

Ángela Rodríguez, second-in-command in Spain's ministry of equality, announced that the department was in the process of developing a free app in which men and women will be able to log the number of hours they spend on housework. "We women spend more time on domestic tasks than men," Rodriguez said, speaking in Geneva at a convention for the committee on the elimination of discrimination against women, where she was presenting a report on women's rights in Spain.

Almost half of the women questioned in a survey by Spain's National Statistics Institute said that they undertook the majority of the chores at home, compared with just 14.9 per cent of men.

The issue often causes arguments, which can sometimes spiral into legal rows. In April 2017, a man in the northern region of Cantabria was ordered by a court to pay his ex-wife over €23,000 for the housework she carried out during their six years together.

Part of the Spanish government's "co-responsibility plan", the app is yet to be released. Bidding is under way to determine which company will be assigned the project, with the aim of it being available this summer. The plan is for it to have a "feminist focus" and "bring to light many of the invisible tasks" that are undertaken in the home. These can result in what has been defined as the "mental load", a term first coined in 1984 in French as *"la charge mentale"* by Monique Haicault, the sociologist, for the unpaid work carried out by women.

Rodríguez gave the example of cleaning a kitchen, which not only takes time in itself but also involves other tasks, such as ensuring there is enough washing-up liquid for the dishes and that the fridge is well-stocked.

The ministry hopes the app, which is expected to cost €211,750 to create according to ABC, the Spanish newspaper, will let users see how long each person spends on chores. Usage will not be limited to those in relationships, said Rodríguez, who believes it will be useful for "sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, or those of us who live with flatmates or life partners where an unequal distribution sometimes also exists".

# Tiger shark tries to have his kayak and eat it

A tiger shark rammed a fisherman's kayak and took a bite at it (Seren Hughes writes).

Scott Haraguchi was in his kayak less than two miles off Oahu, Hawaii, with his left foot dangling in the water, when the shark swam up. In images captured on his GoPro camera, which have since had more than a million views online, the shark appears to bite at the kayak and latch on.

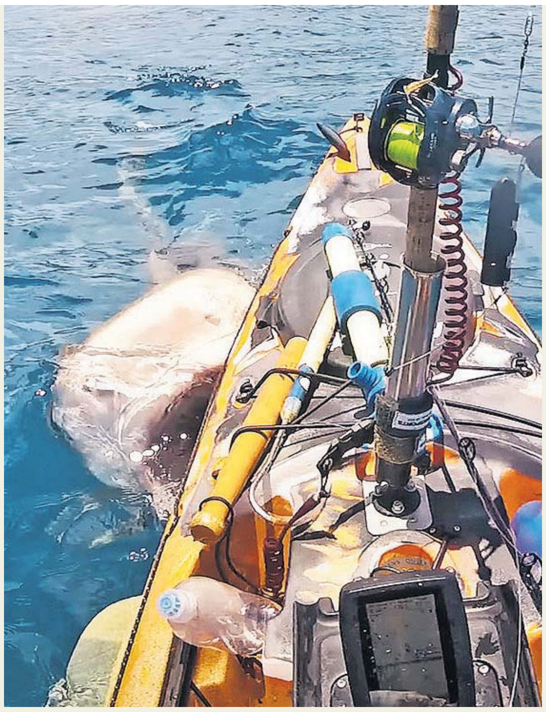
Haraguchi can be heard yelling: "Tiger shark! Tiger shark rammed me!"

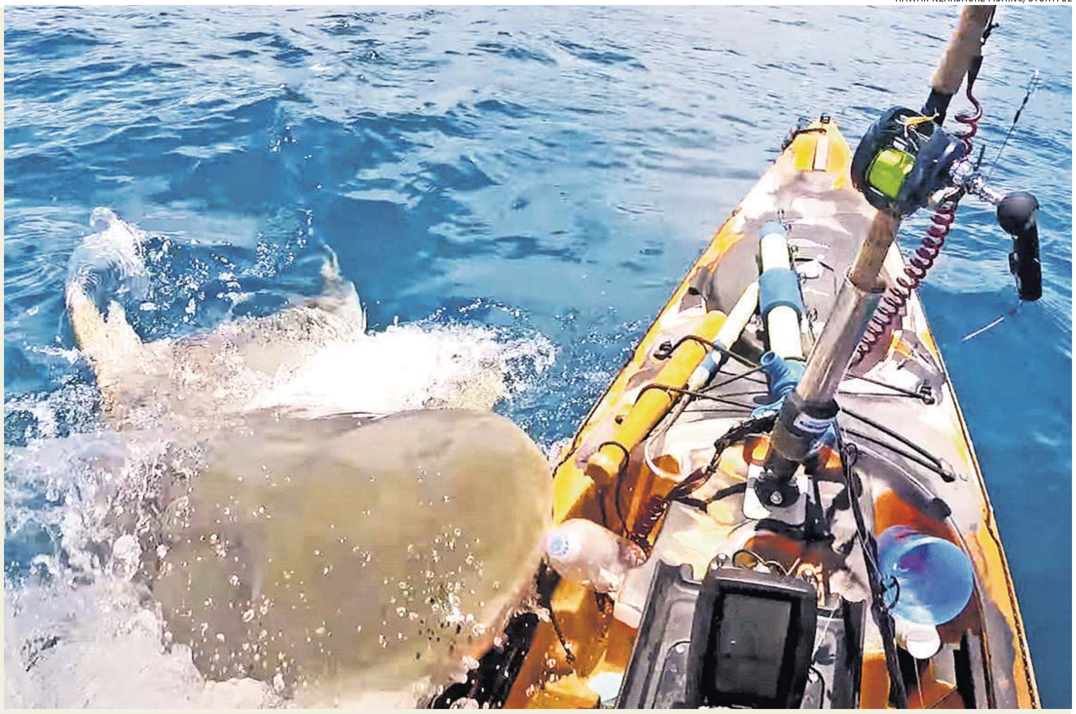
The fisherman said in a blog post that he heard "what sounded like a boat sliding to a stop" and looked up to see what he first thought was a turtle. He pulled his foot out of the water without realising and in doing so "pushed the shark's head off the kayak".

Haraguchi told Hawaii News Now that he was shaking for hours after the attack on Friday "because it was so scary to see how close that shark came to biting my foot". He later saw a wounded seal in the water.

"I believe the tiger shark mortally wounded the seal and was waiting for it to die when it came back and thought I was the dead seal," he said.

HAWAII NEARSHORE FISHING/STORYFUL





The shark appeared to latch on to the kayak before its owner pushed it away with his foot


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# Magic mushroom sellers lead police on merry trip

**United States**

**Keiran Southern** Los Angeles

Cannabis dispensaries in Los Angeles are selling "magic mushrooms" amid a state-wide push by some Democrats to decriminalise the potent hallucinogenic.

Marijuana has been legal for recreational use in California since 2018 and some cities, including San Francisco, have since relaxed their laws on psychoactive plants and fungi.

No such changes have been introduced in Los Angeles, but illicit shops are taking advantage of the high demand for magic mushrooms. Their shelves feature jars of fungi containing psilocybin, which research suggests can help to treat post-traumatic stress disorder.

In the past six months the Los Angeles county sheriff's department has served about 50 search warrants at such establishments.

Lieutenant Jay Moss, of the department's narcotics bureau, said it was common for psychedelic mushrooms to be sold at dispensaries in unincorporated areas — parts of the city run by the county — where even selling cannabis is illegal. "They won't typically openly sell them," he told the Los Angeles Times. "They'll usually have a small amount, two to ten pounds, of mushrooms, and you have to ask for it because they don't have it on display. They might be somewhere out of view, like in the back."

Moss said that the illegal shops were so successful that sellers quickly opened up elsewhere after being closed down. "We serve search warrants at these illegal dispensaries in attempts to shut them down," he said. "The analogy is kind of like whack-a-mole: you shut them down and they reopen in another location."

Democrats in Sacramento, the state capital, are attempting to decriminalise magic mushrooms to align California with the likes of Oregon and Colorado. Scott Wiener, a progressive state senator who has attracted the ire of Republicans nationally for his stance on LGBT issues, is supporting a bill that would eliminate criminal penalties for possessing, growing and sharing small amounts of psychedelic substances including psilocybin, ibogaine and dimethyltryptamine. A version of the bill that decriminalised substances including LSD and MDMA (Ecstasy) failed.

Wiener said that the benefits of drugs such as magic mushrooms outweighed the costs. "It doesn't make any sense to arrest people for possessing psychedelics," he said. "These substances are not addictive and they really help a lot of people with mental health and addiction challenges."

Psilocybin is listed as a schedule 1 drug under the federal Controlled Substances Act. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, it "has a high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision".

While some states and cities have relaxed their laws on magic mushrooms, others have refused. An effort to reduce penalties for possessing psilocybin in Virginia failed this year.

# Oldest Hebrew Bible sells for $38m

**Will Pavia** New York

A Hebrew Bible more than 1,000 years old has sold for $38.1 million in New York, becoming the most valuable manuscript ever to be offered at auction.

Set down on parchment around the year 900, it is the earliest surviving example of an edition containing all 24 books of the Hebrew Bible or Torah, the text known to Christians as the Old Testament.

In the 13th century it passed into the keeping of a synagogue in north-eastern Syria. When the temple was destroyed in the late 14th century the Bible was kept safe, but it disappeared



**The Codex Sassoon was auctioned off at Sotherby's in New York**

until 1929, when it was offered for sale to David Sassoon, a scholar and collector of Hebrew manuscripts.

Known thereafter as the Codex Sassoon, it was offered for sale in New York on Wednesday, billed by Sotheby's as "arguably … the most influential book of human history and the bedrock of western civilisation".

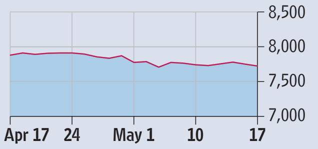
It was bought by Alfred Moses, a former ambassador to Israel now based in Washington DC, on behalf of a charity affiliated with the ANU Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv.

Moses said the Codex would become part of the museum's collection. "I rejoice in knowing that it belongs to the Jewish people," he said. "It was my mission, realising the historic significance of Codex Sassoon, to see that it resides in a place with global access to all people."

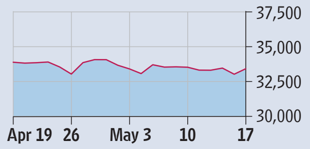
# Business

**WORLD MARKETS** (Change on the day)

**FTSE 100**
7,723.23 (-27.85) ▼

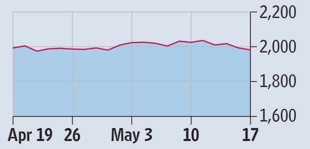



**Dow Jones**
33,420.77 (+408.63) ▲

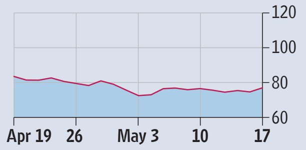



**COMMODITIES**

**Gold**
$1981.88 (-11.98) ▼

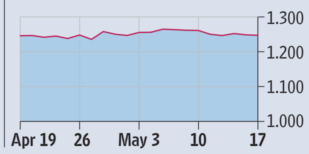



**Brent crude** (6pm)
$77.03 (+2.12) ▲

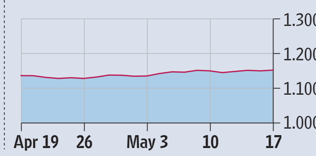



**CURRENCIES**

**£/$**
$1.2474 (-0.0018) ▼




**£/€**
€1.1520 (+0.0021) ▲




## London Capital & Finance chief is handed suspended jail sentence

**Jonathan Ames** Legal Editor

The former chief executive of London Capital & Finance, the collapsed investment company, was given a suspended jail sentence after he admitted concealing £95,000 from investigators that was used to fund his luxury lifestyle.

A judge at Southwark crown court in London sentenced Michael Thomson, 50, to ten-months in jail, suspended for two years, yesterday after he was found to have breached a restraint order imposed on his finances.

Serious Fraud Office investigators had frozen Thomson's assets in an inquiry into suspected fraud and money laundering at the company, which went into administration four years ago leaving 11,000 investors out of pocket by more than £237 million. Thomson has not been charged with any offence in relation to the collapse of LCF.

Officials at the agency said that the order imposed on Thomson covered £55,000 from a tax rebate and a £40,000 insurance claim for repairs to a barn. Those funds were paid into an account opened by Thomson's wife, Debbie, which investigators said was an attempt to hide the money.

Investigators found that Thomson spent some of that money on efforts to conceal and hamper its recovery. In addition, he bought a horse saddle for £3,900, spent £5,000 on a holiday in Italy, £1,170 on a hotel and spa stay in Torquay, and £5,495 on a hot tub.

Thomson had admitted contempt of court but claimed that his failure to declare the money while his assets were "restrained" was unintentional.

Thomson, who is receiving legal aid, argued in court last year that he should be spared jail as he claimed to be his family's "sole provider". Genevieve Reed, in mitigation at that hearing, said there were mental health reasons to justify suspending a jail sentence. Lisa Osofsky, the SFO director, said that the judge's ruling made it clear that "company executives are not above the law". When executives broke the law "we have the means and the resolve to go after their money, no matter where they hide it".

Over the past two years, SFO investigators had "traced and seized every asset we have gone after, recovering over £140 million for taxpayers", she added.

# Car giant in threat to leave Britain

### Stellantis says Brexit rules put 2,000 jobs at risk

**Robert Lea** Industrial Editor

The automotive giant behind Vauxhall has warned that it could close its British factories with a loss of 2,000 jobs unless the government renegotiates incoming post-Brexit trading rules on sourcing batteries for electric vehicles.

The warning was made to a parliamentary inquiry by Stellantis, the company behind the Vauxhall, Peugeot, Citroen, Fiat and Jeep brands, and prompted Kemi Badenoch, the business and trade secretary, to call a meeting with industry leaders.

Stellantis acquired the Luton van manufacturing plant in Bedfordshire and the one at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, in its rescue of the European operations of General Motors in 2017.

It is in the process of repurposing Ellesmere Port as a production facility for small electric vans for which the former business secretary, Kwasi Kwarteng, promised tens of millions of pounds of taxpayer support in 2021.

The reconfigured plant was supposed to be in production by now, but first assemblies have been delayed until September. Luton and Ellesmere Port employ 1,000 workers each.

In the first explicit warning by a carmaker operating in Britain that it will quit the country because of post-Brexit trading rules, Stellantis told MPs on the business and trade select committee that the current trade agreement with the EU will make it uneconomic for it to manufacture in the UK.

At issue is the "rules of origin" that come in from next year, which will demand that at least 45 per cent of the value of a vehicle is sourced locally, rising to 55 per cent in 2027. If manufacturers cannot meet those hurdles they will have to pay 10 per cent export tariffs to the EU. The battery of an electric vehicle alone typically accounts for half the cost of a vehicle. About 80 per cent of all vehicles in the UK are for export, the vast majority of those bound for the EU.

"If the cost of EV (electric vehicle) manufacturing in the UK becomes uncompetitive and unsustainable operations will close," Stellantis told MPs. "Manufacturers will not continue to invest and [will] relocate manufacturing outside the UK.

"The closing of UK manufacturing will see significant job losses, the loss of a skilled workforce and a negative impact to the UK economy."

It is estimated that about 160,000 people are employed in the UK in vehicle manufacturing. Stellantis says there will not be enough battery manufacturing in the UK even by 2030 for vehicle makers to clear the trade agreement hurdles.

The company is calling for ministers to renegotiate the planned trade rules and relax regulations until at least 2027.

"Stricter rules will create significant challenges to bilateral trade of electric vehicles and batteries," Stellantis said. "Our recommendation would be to ensure the establishment of gigafactories is done in partnership with industry specialists."

Last week industry electrification experts told the business and trade committee that the UK has "missed the boat" in the first waves of the battery electric revolution and even now if the country starts attracting investment for gigafactories it will only be playing catch up by 2030.

TOLGA AKMEN/EPA



**Game on** Jeremy Hunt said regulators must "understand their wider responsibilities for economic growth", in a speech that appeared to criticise the watchdog's decision to block Microsoft's $68.7 billion takeover of Activision Blizzard. Page 38

## Purplebricks snapped up by rival for £1

**Helen Cahill**

Purplebricks, the online estate agent which was once worth £1.3 billion, has been sold to a rival backed by Sir Charles Dunstone for just £1.

Its new owner, Strike, will embark on a cost-cutting drive that includes "reducing the employee base" among its 750-strong workforce.

Dunstone, who founded Carphone Warehouse and TalkTalk and is a partner at Strike's joint-main shareholder Freston Venues, said the new group would become a market leader.

He added: "Purplebricks has dramatically changed the industry and we aim to combine its significant brand recognition with an even more disruptive business model."

Purplebricks was launched ten years ago by brothers Michael and Kenny Bruce, gaining market share among sellers drawn by its cheaper fixed-rate fees, and early backing from Neil Woodford, the former star stockpicker.

It floated on London's junior Aim stock exchange at a market capitalisation of £240 million at the end of 2015. However, its fortunes declined as it expanded too rapidly overseas, and struggled to capitalise on the boom in the property market during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In February, it fell to a pre-tax loss of £34.8 million and launched a strategic review after profit warnings. Shares in Purplebricks fell by 44 per cent on Wednesday, giving the company a market capitalisation of £2.3 million.

As part of the deal, Purplebricks will hand shareholders about £2 million. The company's largest investor is Axel Springer, the German publisher.

Andrew Harrison, chairman of Strike, said: "I think they lost their way somewhat as a business. There were lots of distractions that happened such as international expansion, and numerous management changes might have meant that they lost their focus on the UK and the home market.

"Nearly every sector you can think of has a really strong value player with double-digit market share, be that Premier Inn in hotels or easyJet in airlines. But you have to have a low-cost operating model. Charging less doesn't mean you have to give an inferior service

Continued on page 37

## Need to know

**1** Water companies have apologised for pumping sewage into the nation's rivers as they pledged the greatest infrastructure modernisation since the Victorian era. In a victory for The Times' Clean It Up campaign, the industry is to spend an extra £10 billion over the next seven years to curb sewage spills. Page 1

**2** Rishi Sunak has backed away from the Tory manifesto promise to cut immigration below 2019 levels. The prime minister said the government was "in control" of immigration despite official data, due next week, that is expected to show net migration has hit a record 700,000. Page 1

**3** Britain needs a closer trading relationship with the European Union to escape its "doom loop" of low growth and high taxes, Sir Keir Starmer said, as he pledged to reopen Boris Johnson's Brexit trade deal. Page 8

**4** Rishi Sunak will sign a pact with Japan today to work to protect supply chains if China invades Taiwan. The two countries will begin a "semiconductors partnership". Page 10

**5** The UK's inflation will fall sharply in coming months as a big drop in energy prices feeds through to how it is measured, the governor of the Bank of England said. Figures for April due out next week are expected to show a decline to about 9.5 per cent from 10.1 per cent in March. Page 38

**6** Purplebricks, the online estate agent that was once worth £1.3 billion, has been sold to a rival backed by Sir Charles Dunstone for just £1. Page 35

**7** The Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes and Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani, the blood-testing start-up's former president and chief operating officer, have been ordered to pay $452 million in restitution to investors and institutions. A court rejected a bid by Holmes, who was convicted of fraud last year and sentenced to 11 years and 3 months in prison, to stay out of jail while appealing against the ruling.

**8** Elon Musk has called working from home morally wrong and referred to workers in Silicon Valley's technology industry as the "laptop classes living in La-La land".

**9** British Land missed market expectations on a metric gauging the value of its properties and reported losses of more than £1 billion. The valuation of the FTSE 100 property landlord's properties declined 12.3 per cent year-on-year in the 12 months to the end of March, while net tangible assets, a key per-share measure that reflects the value of its buildings, fell 19.5 per cent to 588p, below a company-compiled analysts' estimate of 598p. Page 41

**10** A blank-cheque investment vehicle has raised $550 million, making it Britain's largest stock market listing in more than a year. Admiral Acquisition, founded by Sir Martin Franklin, a British-born, US-based businessman, said it was looking to a target company for acquisition. Page 42

# JD Sports set to hit £1bn as trainer craze runs and runs

**Isabella Fish** Retail Editor

JD Sports Fashion is on track to hit £1 billion of profits this year as it boosts its overseas expansion plans in the hope that young shoppers' desire for athleisure and trainers will continue.

Régis Schultz, the sportswear group's chief executive, said its 16 to 24-year-old customers had more opportunity to get work because of low unemployment levels in all its key markets, and "whenever they get a job, they can buy the gear they love".

"[They] are going out more than in the past and when they go out they want to show off," he said, adding that new trainers were "a very affordable luxury treat".

He said that when customers "move into sneakers, you don't move back. You want to have the latest ones".

Schultz's comments came as revenue at the Manchester-based retailer, which trades from 3,400 stores in 32 countries and online, rose 18 per cent to £10.1 billion in the 12 months to the end of January, up from £8.5 billion in the same period last year.

JD Sports said it witnessed "significant strengthening" in trade through the second half of the period, particularly in North America, as the supply of products from a number of the international brands "normalised".

Adjusted pre-tax profits at the sportswear giant rose 4.6 per cent to £991 million, a record result that was slightly higher than City analysts had forecast.

At the statutory level, pre-tax profit fell to £440.9 million from £654.7 million. The group said there was a "significant increase" in the adjusted items to £550.5 million, from £292.5 million the year before, which was from primarily non-cash items not linked to day-to-day operations, largely related to JD Group cleaning up previous acquisitions and its growth strategy.

Schultz said the group was "reassured with trading to date in the new financial period", with organic sales growth of more than 15 per cent after 13 weeks.

It now expects profit before tax and adjusted items for the 53-week period to February 3, 2024, to be in line with the current average consensus expectations of £1.03 billion.

Schultz said: "To further increase the group's profitability when the first half was impacted by the well-publicised international supply chain challenges, which resulted in the reduced availability of certain key footwear styles, gives me great confidence in both the strength of our market leading sports fashion proposition and the expertise of our colleagues."

Eleonora Dani, of Shore Capital, described the results as "remarkable", saying they showed "continued progress across all areas of the business".

Shares in JD Sports have risen 1,914 per cent in the past ten years amid the boom in so-called athleisure. It is now the UK's largest quoted non-food retailer, with a market capitalisation of £8.7 billion.

It has edged past Next, which is valued at £8.2 billion, and is now more than double the size of M&S, which has a market cap of £3.24 billion.

JD Sports Fashion was founded in 1981 by John Wardle and David Makin, who sold their stakes in 2005 and went on to set up Footasylum.

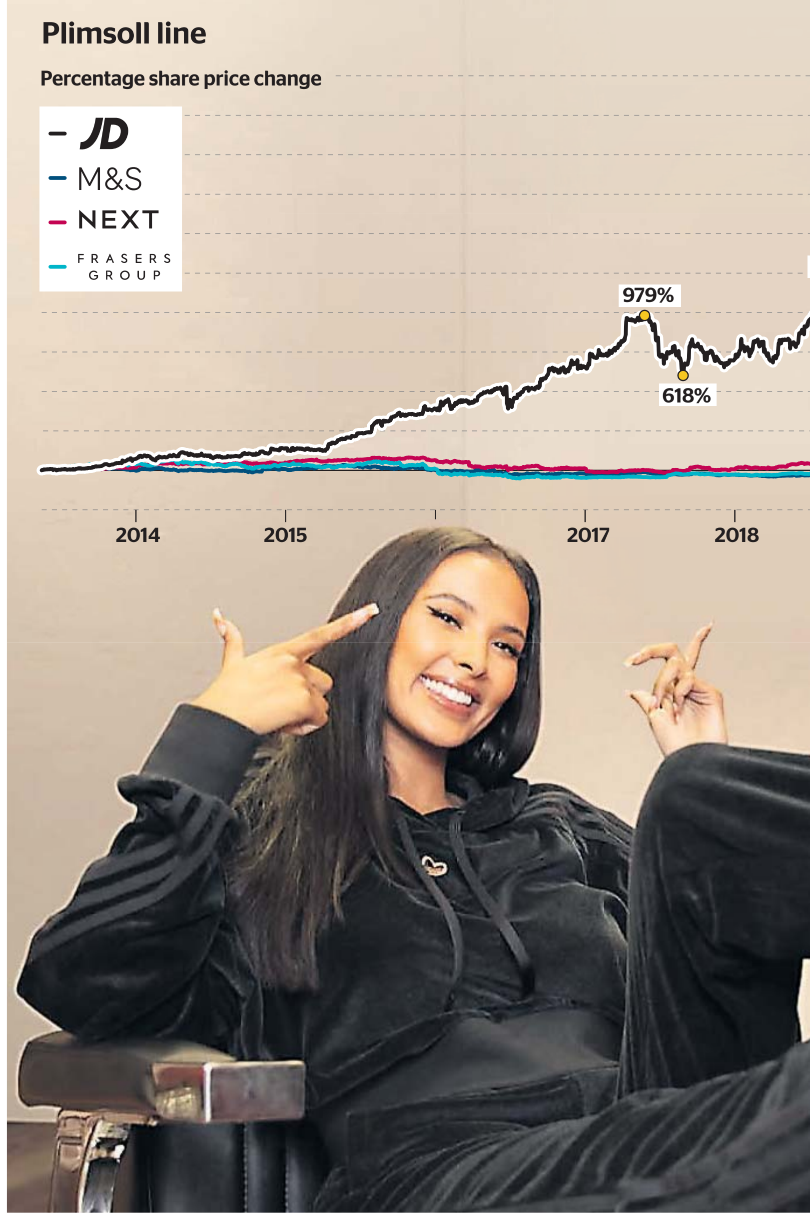
In February, the retail giant said it could spend £3 billion opening 1,750 stores over the next five years as part of its new boss's plan to turn it into a global sports fashion "powerhouse".

Schultz, 54, took over as chief executive last September after a tumultuous period that resulted in the removal of Peter Cowgill as the chain's longstanding executive chairman.

The Frenchman said that his plans marked a "new, distinct chapter in the growth story of JD".

Shares in JD Sports fell by 7¼p, or 4.2 per cent, to 163p.

**Tempus, page 44**




### Behind the story

**In a market obsessed with athleisure, JD Sports Fashion has blown the competition out of the water (Isabella Fish writes). A global powerhouse of sports fashion, it has grown from one shop in Bury, Greater Manchester in 1981, to more than 3,400 shops across 32 countries.**

**The business was founded by John Wardle and David Makin, but had been led for the past couple of decades by former executive chairman Peter Cowgill, a chartered accountant who got into the fashion industry by accident.**

**He had advised the founders before joining in 1996 as finance director. He then left in 2001 after a "difference of opinion", but was parachuted back in as executive chairman in 2004 to lead a turnaround when profits hit the buffers.**

**The business has not looked back since, and in June 2019, made its debut on the FTSE 100 with a valuation of almost £6 billion. Its market cap is now £8.4 billion, edging past Next at £8.2 billion and Frasers Group at £3.58 billion.**

**Central to JD**

# Theranos bosses ordered to pay victims $452m

**Callum Jones**
US Business Correspondent

The Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes and her former top executive have been ordered to pay $452 million in restitution to victims of the blood-testing start-up's fraud.

A court also rejected a bid by Holmes, who was convicted of fraud last year and sentenced to 11 years and 3 months in prison, to stay out of jail while appealing the ruling.

Holmes and Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani, who was president and chief operating officer at Theranos, have been ordered to pay hundreds of millions of dollars to investors and institutions.

This $452 million restitution bill includes $125 million to Rupert Murdoch, executive chairman of News Corp, ultimate owner of The Times and The Sunday Times. Holmes and Balwani are jointly liable for the sum, according to an order signed by US District Judge Edward Davila.

A lawyer for Holmes did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Wednesday. Jeffrey Coopersmith, representing Balwani, said: "We respectfully disagree with the district court's restitution order, but even more fundamentally, the guilty verdict on which the restitution order stands is the product of an unfair trial rife with constitutional and other errors."

It is not clear whether Holmes — once the youngest-ever self-made female billionaire, with a paper fortune of $4.5 billion at the height of her company's rise — will ever pay the restitution in full.

Following Theranos' collapse, the US government said last year that her "modest assets" appeared to be outweighed by $450,000 loans to cover a settlement with the US markets watchdog, and liability for legal fees of more than $30 million. The value of assets held by Balwani is also unclear.

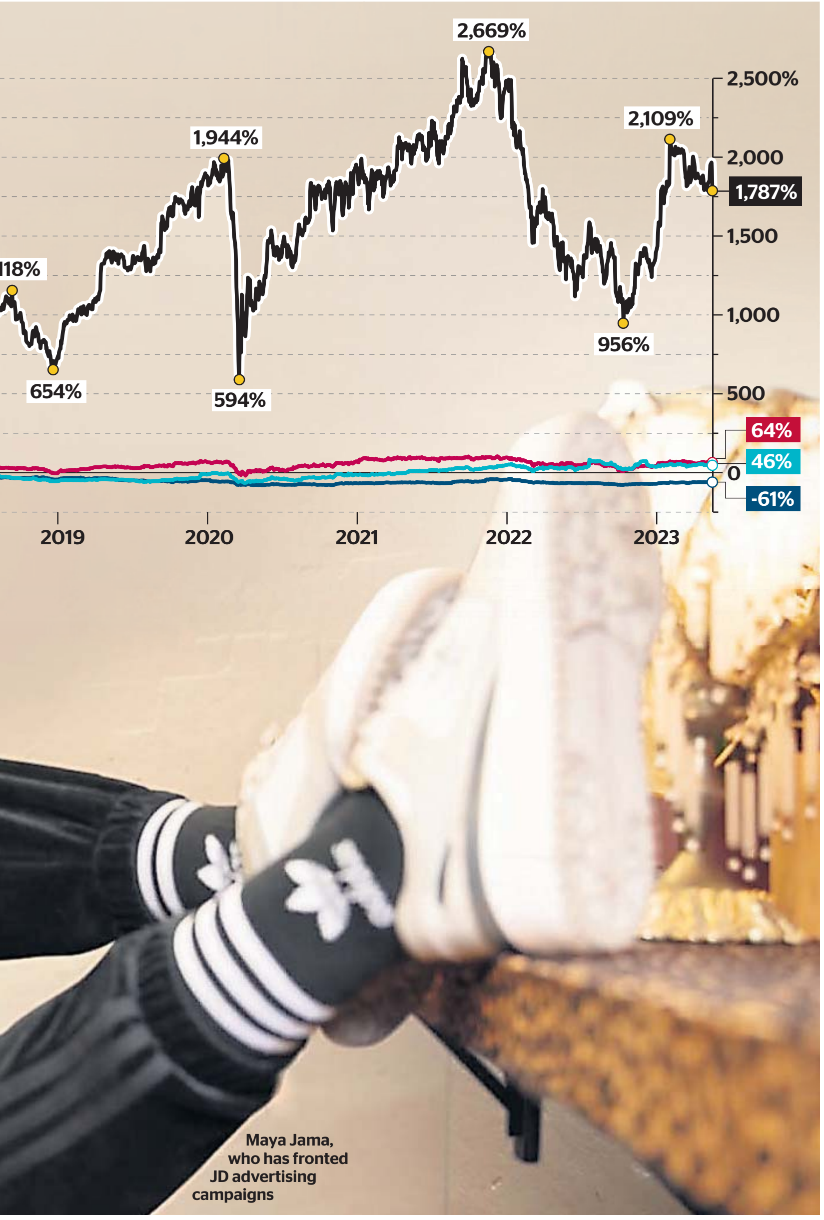
In guidance for victims, the US Department of Justice says it is "rare" that defendants are able to fully pay the entire amount owed.

Holmes founded Theranos in Silicon Valley in 2003. It promised to revolutionise healthcare with technology that it said required just a few drops of blood to conduct dozens of medical tests. Investors ploughed hundreds of millions of dollars into the firm, which at its peak was valued at $9 billion.

However, it closed in 2018 following questions over the capability of its technology, the reality of its operations and the reliability of its test results. Holmes, 39, was convicted of defrauding investors in January last year. At a separate trial, Balwani, her former boyfriend, 57, was convicted of defrauding investors and patients and sentenced to 12 years and 11 months in prison; he started serving this sentence last month.

Lawyers for Holmes, initially scheduled to report to prison on April 27, had asked an appeals court to pause her sentence on April 25. Davila yesterday ordered her to report to prison to begin her sentence on May 30.

Holmes recently gave her first interview in seven years to The New York Times, saying she had "created" a character while running Theranos to be taken seriously and planned to continue working on healthcare-related inventions behind bars. "I still dream about being able to contribute in that space," she told the paper.



Maya Jama, who has fronted JD advertising campaigns

**Sports' growth has been its relationships with brands such as Nike and Adidas, which have granted it exclusive and premium products, enabling it to stand out from then crowd.**

**The company has also made a habit of acquiring smaller rivals to strengthen its proposition, among them Blacks, Millets and designer chain Tessuti. International expansion is another core focus and it has acquired DTLR Villa, the US chain, and Cosmos Sport of Greece. Overseas expansion is to continue under the company's new boss Régis Schultz, who took over from Cowgill in September last year after he was ousted over corporate governance concerns.**

**Schultz said in February that JD Sports could spend £3 billion opening 1,750 stores in the next five years as it looks to become a global sports fashion "powerhouse".**

**Schultz said that Footlocker, the American sportswear and footwear retailer, is its main competitor. He said Sports Direct did not come close in the rankings: "They are a good UK business, but we are a global business."**

# Musk fumes at 'morally wrong' work from home

**Robert Miller**

Elon Musk has called working from home morally wrong and referred to workers in Silicon Valley's technology industry as the "laptop classes living in La-La land".

The chief executive of Tesla, the electric car-maker, as well as SpaceX, the aerospace and space transportation services company, said home working was unfair on those who had to commute because of their jobs, such as builders, mechanics or delivery drivers.

"The whole work from home thing, it's sort of like, I think it's, like, there are some exceptions, but I kind of think that the whole notion of work from home is a bit like, you know, the fake Marie Antoinette quote, 'Let them eat cake'," Musk told CNBC.

The billionaire, 51, who last year bought Twitter, the social media platform for $44 billion, added: "You're going to work from home and make everyone who made your car come to the factory? Does that seem morally right? That's messed up.

"It's a productivity issue, but it's also a moral issue. People should get off their goddamn moral high horse with this bullshit because they're asking everyone else to not work from home while they do. It's wrong."

Musk scrapped Twitter's own working from home policy in November after he took control while staff at Tesla and SpaceX are also expected to work on site. He said: "I work seven days per week, but I am not expecting others to do that." He added that he typically gets six hours of sleep each night, and anything less gives him "brain pain".

Earlier this week, Musk said that he had slept "in the car" before a meeting with President Macron, hours after he was pictured partying in Mexico and Los Angeles.

Musk said the appointment last week of Linda Yaccarino, the former chairwoman of global advertising and partnerships at NBCUniversal, as chief executive of Twitter would allow him to spend more time at Tesla.

"Twitter is very much an advertising business; Linda is obviously incredible at that and she's just a great executive in general. Linda will operate a company and I will build products," he said.

Shares in Tesla closed up strongly in New York last night with a gain of $7.34, or 4.4 per cent, at $173.86.

# Scottish Mortgage is still a decent bet

**BUSINESS COMMENTARY** *Patrick Hosking*

Britain's favourite vehicle for investing in technology and other fast-growth companies has blown another gasket (report, page 43). This time last year, Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust, had to admit that £2.4 billion had been wiped from the value of its investments. Now another £2.8 billion has gone up in smoke.

The FTSE 100 company, once valued at more than £20 billion, is now a mere £8.7 billion. For years its shares traded at a hefty premium to net assets as investors scrambled to hitch a ride on the stockpicking talent of its fund managers. Now they languish at an unloved 21 per cent discount.

It is two months since a non-executive director, Amar Bhidé, went rogue, publicly attacking the chairwoman Fiona McBain for a lack of independence and questioning the trust's ability to manage its unlisted equity holdings. Exit Bhidé and McBain (she leaves next month) and the hiring of two new non-execs.

The senior manager, Tom Slater, has two shareholder worries to address. The first is a general one about the wisdom of investing in technology, sometimes very futuristic and untested technology.

Slater gives a powerful case for the near-miraculous power of technology to push a lucky few companies into the virtuous circle of fabulously compounding returns. He cites Moore's Law, the dictum that the computing power of a silicon chip doubles every two years. He brandishes Carlson's Curve, a parallel rule of thumb for gene sequencing. He even gives a shout-out to Wright's Law, an adage going back to 1936 and an engineer called Theodore Wright, who found that every time production of aircraft doubled, the time taken to achieve it fell by a fifth.

Those exponential forces drive technological progress and help explain why the vast bulk of total investment returns are generated by a relatively small number of corporate winners. The trick is to identify enough of them to offset the inevitable turkeys.

Slater's second challenge is to address doubts about his unlisted investments. Investors haven't forgotten how their former stockpicking hero, Neil Woodford, lost his empire and his reputation after a disastrous flirtation with private companies.

Slater's private picks are very different from Woodford's — much larger and more mature businesses including Elon Musk's SpaceX and the TikTok owner Bytedance. Their average valuations have been cut by 28 per cent in the past year, which compares with a 14 per cent fall in the Nasdaq, the US tech-heavy index. That sounds reassuringly conservative.

The company remains a massive bet on the tech sector, but at far lower cost than specialist tech funds or private equity vehicles. It should not be a too large chunk in any portfolio. But as a punt on identifying the next Tesla or Amazon early, it still makes a persuasive case for itself.

## Green warning

The Committee to Unleash Prosperity (CUP), a free-market ginger group in the US, has found that even investment funds that do not badge themselves as environmentally friendly or diversity-positive are using their votes to back what it calls "the most extreme ESG-oriented resolutions".

Tens of millions of American pension fund members are unwittingly having their nest-eggs voted in favour of resolutions calling for climate justice and racial equity audits, it says. Familiar names such as Columbia Threadneedle and Invesco Perpetual make it into the CUP hall of shame of firms that prioritise politics over pensions.

In Washington, legislators have filed 99 so-called ESG backlash bills this year, up from 39 in 2022. Many are designed to protect oil and gas companies from climate related demands, but others relate to everything from abortion rights and race to gun control. Chief executives are already less prone to boast about their ESG progress and their social purpose.

In the UK the view that companies should focus purely on maximising returns has been in the dustbin for years. To do so is, in fact, illegal. Section 192 of the Companies Act requires directors to consider stakeholders other than shareholders.

Fund managers have largely accepted they have a wider duty, partly persuaded by studies that, until recently, suggested ESG actually boosts returns. Yes, the concern of end-investors is over greenwash — the suspicion that all the claims made about ESG are really about puffing funds rather than changing behaviour.

The UK is not the US, but a protracted period of poor share-market performance might conceivably start to alter that view. If pension pots cease to fatten up nicely year after year, savers might start to demand more of a focus on unleashing their own prosperity.

## Old turns to gold

Deliveroo, Made.com, Doc Martens, THG, TrustPilot, Parsley Box . . . The 2021 vintage of companies that floated in London in the depths of lockdown is a roll-call of disappointments and failures. So kudos to Auction Technology Group, whose shares have actually made a bit of progress since floating at 600p in February 2021, up 8 per cent yesterday to 723p after strong results.

ATG, which runs the digital sites on which auction houses can cater to remote bidders from anywhere in the world, is one of those platform-based businesses that is naturally scaleable. The fact that this tech-fuelled winner was built out of something as old-economy as the Antiques Trade Gazette (which is still published in physical form) is an added pleasure.

*patrick.hosking@thetimes.co.uk*
*Alistair Osborne is away*

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35**
Purplebricks sold for £1

though. We are very focused on that and we know homes are people's most important asset."

Helena Marston, chief executive of Purplebricks, will resign after the transaction completes.

She was appointed to the role only in March last year and immediately embarked on a programme of cost-cutting to save £21 million, telling The Times: "I love gnarly problems, making ballsy moves".

Yesterday she said: "Taking the actions we did has allowed us to secure a solvent outcome, which protects the future of the business and the Purplebricks consumer-driven brand."

Purplebricks said: "Strike has indicated that it would like to initiate a redundancy consultation process — which would likely involve all of the company's employees — as soon as practicable."

# BP hit by $40 million penalty over high benzene emissions

**Emily Gosden**

BP is to pay a $40 million penalty for high emissions of benzene from its Whiting refinery in Indiana.

The oil giant will also spend $197 million on upgrades at the refinery under a settlement agreed with the US Department of Justice and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Exposure to benzene is known to cause a litany of health issues including cancer. The US alleges that BP's subsidiary "violated federal regulations limiting benzene in refinery wastewater streams" as well as other emissions rules on hazardous air pollutants.

BP will reduce emissions by seven tonnes a year by installing new "benzene strippers" and other equipment.

The breaches are not the first for the Whiting refinery: in 2009 the EPA said benzene levels released by the plant in prior years had been up to 16 times higher than permitted, and in 2012 BP paid an $8 million Clean Air Act penalty related to the refinery.

A BP spokesman said: "BP takes very seriously all issues related to safety and compliance. With this new agreement, we are committing to additional, robust steps — including significant capital investments — to monitor and mitigate wastewater emissions at Whiting Refinery."

EPA's Larry Starfield said: "This settlement will result in the reduction of hundreds of tonnes of harmful air pollution a year, which means cleaner, healthier air for local communities."

**Business**

# Hunt's dig at watchdog over Microsoft deal

**Katie Prescott, Alex Ralph**

Jeremy Hunt appeared to criticise the competition watchdog over its decision to block Microsoft's $68.7 billion takeover of *Call of Duty* maker Activision Blizzard, saying regulators must "understand their wider responsibilities for economic growth".

The chancellor told the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) annual conference that while he would not want to undermine their independence, regulators also play a role in developing the economy.

He said: "One of the reasons Microsoft wants to invest in the UK is because we have independent regulators and I would not want to undermine that at all, but it's important all of our regulators understand their wider responsibilities for economic growth."

The Competition & Markets Authority's decision to stop the mega-merger going ahead in the UK, which has a knock-on effect globally, has led to intense debate about Britain's attractiveness for the technology sector. The deal was given the green light by the European regulator on Monday, although the US has sued to block it.

The CMA found that the acquisition "would alter the future of the fast-growing cloud gaming market, leading to reduced innovation and less choice for UK gamers over the years to come".

Hunt said: "For our tech sector, it isn't just getting through the big deals. Competition matters, the highest levels of competitive intensity will make it the most exciting place for technology."

Brad Smith, Microsoft's president, was vocal in response to the CMA's ruling, which the software giant is set to appeal. He said confidence in the UK technology sector had been "severely shaken" and the ban sent a message that "the European Union is a more attractive place to start a business".

Baroness Lane-Fox of Soho, the BCC's president and a stalwart of the UK tech scene, said Microsoft's response was inevitable: "It's always going to be the tactic of a large company who's facing regulation to say that the regulation is a disaster for them."

She added: "I'm not making a judgment on the Activision Microsoft deal. It's complicated, but I would say, I do believe the UK should be thinking about tech regulation in an interesting and creative and different way."

The government has expressed a desire for the UK to become a "science and technology superpower" by 2030.

Hunt said the title of Europe's Silicon Valley would be hotly contested. He said: "I think if you look at our track record of what we've achieved, look at our very strong higher education sector, very strong financial services sector, this is an opportunity for us — and that's why I think we can be confident that we will have tremendous growth going forward."

Separately, Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer told the conference that the party was "proud of being pro-business" and holds its "hand out in partnership". Starmer, who has launched a charm offensive with business after relations broke down under Jeremy Corbyn, said the "root cause of so many of our challenges is a lack of economic growth".

"That's why we need a reformed planning system; we need a modern industrial strategy; we need a more powerful British business plan."

## Fixers 'help oligarchs to evade West's sanctions'



REUTERS

The government has imposed an asset freeze on Alisher Usmanov, pictured with President Putin

**Russian oligarchs targeted by the West are using shell companies and international tax havens to evade sweeping financial sanctions (Mehreen Khan writes).**

**The Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (Acams), which consults global governments on sanctions enforcements, has revealed how oligarchs and Russian companies are able to protect their wealth and smuggle goods into Russia through neighbouring countries.**

**Roman Abramovich, Alisher Usmanov and Igor Shuvalov were all subject to travel bans and asset freezes in the UK after Russia invaded Ukraine. But more than a year later, the oligarchs have used a number of techniques to protect their wealth and assets, including shareholdings in companies and private jets, the report said.**

**The UK imposed new sanctions last month on "fixers" who have enabled sanctions evasion. Acams said that oligarchs had used "highly paid professional proxies and intermediaries, such as nominee directors and shareholders, real estate agents, public accountants, notaries, and consultants".**

**The report added: "As western sanctions expanded and enforcement oversight increased, the oligarchs and other elites have increasingly turned to professional enablers from third countries to move or manage their wealth."**

**Justine Walker, global sanctions specialist at Acams and a former UK government official, said that initial western sanctions had focused on oligarchs to build pressure for regime change in Moscow. "That clearly hasn't happened in the way the international community wanted," she said.**

**There was now a renewed focus from governments to ensure that Russia did not have access to weapons and defence technologies that were subject to export controls.**

**The findings also highlight the growing importance of non-aligned countries in central Asia, as well as China and India, in diverting trade to allow Russia to access goods that can be used to build weaponry. Techniques include using neutral countries to move goods and misrepresenting the origin and use of goods on customs declarations.**

**Walker said that western governments were increasingly preoccupied with sanctions evasion that was helping fund the Russian war effort and help the country's "battlefield capability".**

**G7 leaders, including Rishi Sunak, President Biden and the German chancellor Olaf Scholz, are expected to agree at a summit in Japan this weekend that western exports of all goods to Russia are prohibited unless explicitly exempted.**

# Inflation set for sharp fall, says Bailey

**Mehreen Khan** Economics Editor

The UK's double-digit inflation has begun to come down, figures out next week are expected to show, and it will continue to fall sharply in coming months, according to the governor of the Bank of England.

Andrew Bailey said at the British Chambers of Commerce annual conference that a big drop in energy prices would soon be felt in the measurement of annual inflation, which calculates the difference in price rises this year compared with the surge after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

New inflation figures for April will be released next week and are expected to show a decline to about 9.5 per cent after the stronger-than-expected 10.1 per cent recorded in March. These dynamics mean "energy prices should begin to pull overall inflation down rather than push it up as they have done over the past two years", Bailey said.

"In the March [inflation] release, the price of electricity, gas and other fuels were more than 85 per cent higher than a year ago, contributing more than three percentage points to headline inflation. That contribution is likely to drop to about one percentage point in next week's data as large increases in energy prices from a year ago drop out of the annual calculations," he said.

**10.1%**

**The stronger-than-expected inflation figures recorded in March**
Source: Office for National Statistics

The Bank's monetary policy committee (MPC) increased borrowing costs last week for a 12th consecutive meeting to 4.5 per cent, warning that further rate rises might be needed if some inflationary pressures proved persistent.

Bailey said that after three significant economic shocks in the form of the pandemic, an energy-price crisis and a shrinking labour market, the UK was suffering from a fourth shock in the form of spiralling food prices. But he warned that runaway food prices would be to fall back to normal levels this year.

"Increases in energy prices and poor harvests, in addition to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have played a role throughout the Continent," he said.

Financial markets this week reduced their expectation for more interest rate rises from the Bank and now expect only one more increase to the base rate in June. Bailey said that the MPC would be closely watching dynamics in the labour market, which has driven part of the UK's persistently high inflation.

The Bank's ratesetters are also paying more attention to measurements of core inflation, which strip out food and energy prices, to provide a better sense of the strength of domestically driven price pressures. Core inflation was 6.2 per cent in March and will not fall as fast as headline inflation, Bailey said. "As headline inflation falls, these second-round effects are unlikely to go as quickly as they appeared."

# Stratolaunch lands Virgin Orbit's Cosmic Girl jumbo

**Jon Rees**

Sir Richard Branson's bankrupt satellite launch company Virgin Orbit has signed an agreement with Stratolaunch, maker of the world's biggest aircraft, to sell assets including its specially adapted Cosmic Girl jumbo jet aircraft for $17 million in cash.

The deal values the remains of the business at a fraction of the $3 billion Virgin Orbit was worth when it floated on the US stock market in 2021.

Court filings said Stratolaunch's offer represented a "stalking horse" bid for mainly the aircraft assets of the company, essentially a reserve price for other potentials buyers to beat if they want to buy assets or the company. Virgin Orbit said in the filing that the agreement did not prevent other bids for all its assets, including the ones for which Stratolaunch is bidding.

The company also said that the bankruptcy marketing process had generated considerable interest in its other assets. Virgin Orbit and its bankers remained open to other potential offers, filings revealed. An auction of assets will take place on Monday.

Virgin Orbit, which used the customised Boeing 747 as a launch vehicle for a rocket carrying satellites into orbit, laid off 671 employees, the bulk of its 750 employees, after a failed attempt to carry out a satellite launch from a base at Newquay airport in Cornwall in January. It subsequently struggled to secure long-term funding and filed for bankruptcy protection in the US in April, when its shares were delisted from the Nasdaq stock exchange in New York.

Virgin Orbit is based in Long Beach, California, and was spun out of Branson's Virgin Galactic suborbital tourism company in 2017. It went public via a "blank cheque" merger in late 2021.

# Simon Nixon

## Greece's hard work on debt may be undone by a left-wing government



Greece's recovery from a country on the brink of a cataclysmic debt default to one on the brink of a return to investment-grade status is one of the more remarkable financial turnaround stories of modern times. Eight years ago, Greece was effectively bankrupt, its banks closed and a newly elected radical left-wing government engaged in a reckless brinkmanship with the country's international lenders amid talk of it quitting, or being ejected from, the eurozone. Today it is one of the fastest-growing countries in the eurozone, its debt level is falling fast and, providing Greece sticks to its current economic course, its credit rating is likely to be upgraded to BBB, regaining its investment-grade status.

Whether Greece sticks to its current path is the question at the heart of Sunday's general election. Much of the credit for the turnaround in its economic fortunes must go to Kyriakos Mitsotakis, prime minister since 2019. He was one of the first in Greece's deeply clientelist political system to recognise only far-reaching supply side reforms to improve the country's competitiveness, reduce bureaucracy and enhance productivity could pull it out of the economic mire. But his impressive track record of delivery of pro-market reforms could be put at risk if the election leads to the return of a left-wing Syriza government led by Alexis Tsipras, the former prime minister.

The results of these reforms speak for themselves. Since 2019, investment has surged by 44.2 per cent in real terms, reflecting foreign and domestic business confidence in the government's pro-growth agenda, notes Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg Bank. Meanwhile, Greek GDP is now 6.4 per cent above its pre-pandemic level, far ahead of the eurozone average of 1.3 per cent, let alone Britain, which has yet to even reach this milestone.

Much of this growth has been driven by a surge in exports, up from 19 per cent of GDP in 2009 to 49 per cent last year. And despite pandemic borrowing, debt has fallen from 206 per cent of GDP to 171 per cent and is forecast to fall by ten percentage points a year for the next three years. That would bring its debt ratio below current Italian levels.

This turnaround may come as a surprise to many who remember the endless predictions that Greece was doomed when its debt problems first emerged in 2009. That is because much of the coverage was distorted, sometimes deliberately so, by those fighting their own ideological battles.

Many British Eurosceptics saw the Greek crisis as proof of their belief that the euro was bound to collapse and were effectively willing that outcome. Many other economists on both sides of the Atlantic viewed the crisis through the prism of the fierce global debate over austerity, as if the chronic morbidities of the Greek economy could have been resolved by Athens spending a couple of extra percentage points of GDP.

Greece was never going to exit the euro as the costs, above all to Greeks themselves, would have been high, as Tsipras understood when he eventually accepted a bailout. Instead, the stand-off was only ever over what reforms Greece would be required to undertake in return for low interest loans from the rest of the eurozone. Those included painful spending cuts, but the biggest battles concerned radical reforms to its unaffordable pension system, its rigid labour laws, a moribund banking system weighed down by bad debts, a bloated public administration riddled with cronyism and a private sector stifled by barriers to entry. These required Athens to confront powerful vested interests.

Of course, the political crisis carried a huge cost, which persists to this day. The economy is 26 per cent smaller than it was in 2008, while the minimum wage was only recently raised above its pre-crisis level. Nor can success be taken for granted. Greece needs to close a long-standing investment gap of about 7 per cent of GDP per year, reckons Goldman Sachs. That should be partly filled by post-pandemic EU recovery funds equivalent to 3 per cent of GDP per year, if the government can come up with viable projects and deliver them. But the key is continued reforms.

That may hinge on the outcome of the election. Although Mitsotakis's New Democracy is ahead in the polls, it may not secure enough seats to win a majority, its popularity dented by political scandals. It may also struggle to find a coalition partner. That could open the door to Tsipras's return, either now or after a second election in July. Although he now cuts a more moderate figure, he is still promising big increases in social spending, the reversal of some labour reforms and a number of nationalisations. That could lead to a period of uncertainty, delaying any rating upgrade.

Nonetheless, it is possible to draw lessons from Greece's recovery. The first is that the euro is more resilient than many had realised. Since the Greek crisis, the single currency has been tested by a pandemic, the Ukraine crisis, the election of a hard-right government in Italy and the end of quantitative easing while barely troubling the bond markets. That is partly because the eurozone has been able to improvise new crisis-fighting mechanisms such as the recovery fund, which was financed by the issue of EU debt. But also because of the way in which euro membership, by removing the possibility of devaluation, forces governments to undertake reforms.

It is striking that many of the fastest-growing economies in Europe are former crisis countries, including Greece, Ireland, Spain, Portugal and even Italy. But this is no coincidence. Taking on vested interests is hard and politicians tend to resist unless subject to external pressure. There is a lesson here for Britain, which has dropped to the bottom of the European growth league table and which some have suggested is undergoing its own self-imposed version of an IMF programme in the wake of the Liz Truss debacle. Yet while the government is taking a hairshirt approach to the public finances, it has made no serious attempt at supply side reform. A Greek-style renaissance may be some way off.



Greece was brought to the brink of financial collapse eight years ago

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## Ryan Bourne

# Late titan of economics taught us we should be focusing on growth

**The death of Robert Lucas, the esteemed economist from the University of Chicago, marks a significant loss for economics. Along with titans such as John Maynard Keynes and Milton Friedman, Lucas was one of the most influential economists of the 20th century, making significant contributions in macroeconomic policy, economic modelling, and our understanding of economic growth.**

**In 1995, Lucas was awarded the economics Nobel Prize, in part for his 1972 paper that undermined the postwar Keynesian paradigm. He contended that inflation did not affect long-term average unemployment, a sharp departure from a consensus that economic stimulus leading to higher prices could lower dole queues. Lucas was thus instrumental in shaping a new era for economics, ushering in the "new classical school" built upon the "rational expectations" of individuals and firms.**

**The 1970s would be a period of reckoning for Keynesian economics, as it grappled with the failures of its own policies. Governments had relied on models based on historical data observing a clear trade-off between prices and jobs. The belief was that monetary stimulus could reduce unemployment at the cost of higher inflation. Instead, demand management was producing stagflation, with rising inflation and high unemployment simultaneously.**

**Lucas's "critique" and rational expectations theory provided an explanation. The old correlations between inflation and unemployment were not static; they were determined by the public's perceptions about policy. If people internalised now that the government sought even higher inflation to reduce unemployment, economic actors would raise their prices and wage demands accordingly, undermining any jobs trade-off. The only way central banks could stimulate higher employment then was by continually surprising people through ever higher (and damaging) inflation.**

**This perspective, that the economic rules of the game are fluid and change in response to policy decisions, was revolutionary. Expectations were swiftly integrated into most economic models and independent central banks still worry mightily about them. "Micro-founded" models, which seek to understand macroeconomic phenomena through consumer and business behaviours are widely used.**

**These latter models have poor forecasting records, indicating that while Lucas's work was insightful about past failures, it did not provide a roadmap for an alternative. His conclusion about the limits of macroeconomic policy given humans' propensity to adapt to new policies, however, remains profound.**

**Unfortunately, this wisdom hasn't reached all policy debates. During the pandemic, lockdowns were justified by simplistic models that often assumed government regulations alone reduced human contact, ignoring the large voluntary behavioural changes in response to rising infections.**

**The government's declared goal of halving inflation this year, instead of reaffirming the Bank of England's 2 per cent target, also goes against Lucasian wisdom. If perceived a tolerance or endorsement for above-target inflation, such a pronouncement might raise inflation expectations and make the Bank of England's efforts to bring down inflation, without harming output, more difficult. Taking expectations seriously made Lucas favourable to clear, credible policy rules over discretion.**

**As his career progressed, Lucas shifted attention from the huge issue of macroeconomic stability to the most important of all: economic growth. The potential welfare gains of getting the conditions for growth right were so "staggering," he said, that it was hard to think about anything else.**

**This led to an unfortunately timed quotation, when in 2003 he claimed economics had solved "the central problem of depression-prevention," earning him opprobrium when the financial crisis hit. Again, though, his point on emphasis was undoubtedly correct. Britain would have benefited from more focus on growth these past two decades, relative to both economic-firefighting and redistribution.**

*Ryan Bourne is R Evan Scharf chair for the Public Understanding of Economics at the Cato Institute and author of the recent book Economics in One Virus*


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# Shoppers are going abroad to save on VAT, retailers claim

**Isabella Fish** Retail Editor

British shoppers looking to cut the cost of big purchases are travelling to the Continent where tax breaks are still offered.

Luxury goods retailers, upmarket stores and lobby groups including VisitBritain, Harrods and Watches of Switzerland, have been campaigning for the restoration of tax-free shopping for overseas visitors, warning that London is losing business to cities such as Milan and Paris.

The scheme, which allowed visitors from non-EU countries to recover the VAT on purchases, was abolished when Britain left the EU on January 1, 2021.

However, businesses have warned that the end of the scheme is not just hurting tourism in the UK. British domestic shoppers are also travelling to European cities to buy big-ticket and luxury items, creating a further knock-on impact on retail, tourism and hospitality.

Sacha Zackariya, chief executive of ChangeGroup, a UK-based retail foreign exchange and bureau de change company, said: "Now the UK is out of the EU, more people are taking advantage of tax-free shopping in the EU.

"The lack of VAT refunds compared to the EU is already dissuading high-value shopping tourists from visiting the UK or shopping here when they do.

"But now there is evidence that domestic shoppers are also popping offshore for high-value purchases, making big savings in the EU."

Data from Global Blue, a tourism shopping tax refund company, said there was a 200 per cent increase in UK residents claiming back VAT for purchases in the EU in 2022, with more than €500 million claimed.

ChangeGroup estimates that more than £1 billion worth of purchases, many of which would have been made in the UK, will now be made in the EU.

A purchase of £300 could save a consumer £60 in VAT, "which could make a city break to Paris or Madrid very attractive", it said.

"From watches to iPhones, it just doesn't make sense to buy items over £300 in the UK anymore, with a quick trip to Spain or France enabling people to save potentially hundreds of pounds on VAT," Zackariya added.

Sylvie Freund-Pickavance, global strategy and business development director at the Bicester Collection, the owner of the cut-price designer shopping village Bicester Village in Oxfordshire, said: "Our UK domestic customers are doing heftier spends outside the UK. They are starting to understand that they can delay purchases to shop abroad where they might find the same item cheaper because they can claim back VAT."

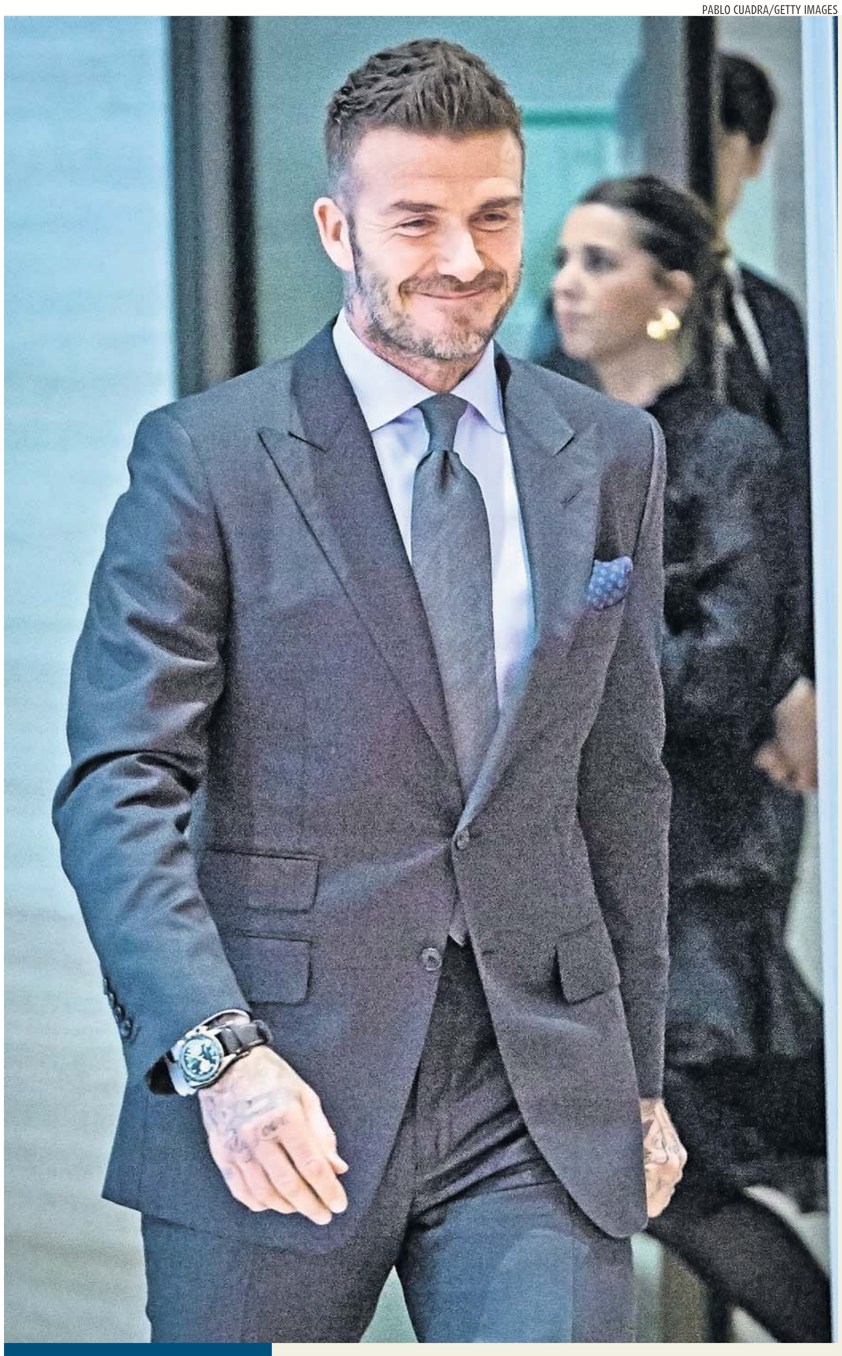
The Bicester Collection owns 11 shopping destinations across the world.

Freund-Pickavance said: "While the UK is not doing too badly, the growth in our French, Italian and German villages is more than double-digit, and close in some countries to triple-digit.

"There is an enormous lost opportunity in the UK. If we want to say we're open for business, we have to mean it. The UK is amazing as a country, the culture, the history, the food, is fantastic, so why make it so difficult to come?"

Brian Duffy, chief executive of Watches of Switzerland, said that the impact had been felt by businesses across the UK, particularly in key tourist destinations such as London, Manchester and Edinburgh.

"We know that tourists are now switching their travel plans to visit cities like Milan or Paris, and the result is a drop in footfall and sales for the UK's hospitality and retail industries."



PABLO CUADRA/GETTY IMAGES

Watches of Switzerland is to open a shop on London's Old Bond Street next year selling the Tudor brand of watches, for which David Beckham is an ambassador

## Time is on our side, says luxury watch chain

**Watches of Switzerland said the "challenging trading environment" seen in the past six months is expected to continue as it reported luxury watch sales had held up well but jewellery sales suffered (Isabella Fish writes).**

**The seller of Rolex and Omega watches said in a trading update that revenue increased by 25 per cent to £1.5 billion in the year to April 30 compared with the previous year, with the UK and Europe accounting for £890 million worth of sales, though growth slowed to 22 per cent in the final quarter. Sales rose rapidly in the US where the company has expanded in recent years.**

**"Although, as expected, the second half of financial year 2023 saw a more challenging trading environment, demand remains strong and continues to exceed supply, with client registration lists continuing to grow," Brian Duffy, its chief executive, said.**

**Luxury watches continued to perform well in the quarter, with a 28 per cent rise in revenue, which the seller claimed was "driven by increases in average selling price and volume". Jewellery had a tougher time, however, with revenue slipping 17 per cent on 2022.**

**Duffy said it was a "highly competitive" category and one that people "invest and indulge in when they're feeling confident". He added that traffic in London had been affected by the rail strikes and other disruptions. "People want to try jewellery on in store."**

**The business said it is entering the 2024 financial year "ahead of schedule" but warned "the more challenging trading environment" would continue into the first half of next year.**

**Shares in the business, which have dropped by 30 per cent in the past year, closed down 43p, or 5.8 per cent, to 697½p.**


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# Sage on cloud nine as strong first half beats analysts' expectations

Katie Prescott

Sage has reported a 12 per cent rise in annualised recurring revenue (ARR), income from subscriptions, to £2.1 billion, beating analysts expectations.

The business software group also delivered a buoyant forecast, predicting an 11 per cent rise in ARR for the year, sending the shares higher.

Underlying operating profit rose 14 per cent to £227 million and it paid a 6.5p dividend per share, a rise of 4 per cent from the same period in 2022.

Steve Hare, chief executive, said growth was from the cloud services it has been growing and that artificial intelligence would increasingly be a focus for the business.

Cloud computing means the delivery of resources, such as software, on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Hare said: "We are committed to delivering innovative, AI-powered services that make our customers' lives easier and their organisations more productive and resilient. Small and mid-sized businesses are continuing to digitise and through our trusted technology and human approach, Sage is well positioned to support them."

The group, based in Newcastle upon Tyne, provides accounting, human resources and payroll software to almost half of Britain's small businesses. It employs 11,000 people globally, including 3,200 in the UK and Ireland, where it makes 25 per cent of its revenue.

It also has a strong presence in North America, where it has 2,600 staff and derives 40 per cent of its revenue. It entered the FTSE 100 in 1999 where it is one of only two companies officially classified as in the technology sector.

Sage has been on an acquisition spree of smaller tech businesses as part of its growth strategy. In May last year it bought Futrli, a cashflow forecasting business based in Brighton, and last year it completed the acquisition of Task Sheriff, an artificial intelligence start-up in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Sage is looking to expand its footprint in the US. In August last year, it bought Seattle-based Lockstep, an automated accounting company; in December 2021, it acquired Brightpearl, a Texas-based retail management company that automates back-office functions for retailers, for £225 million; in April last year it bought Mateo, a loan software firm from Atlanta aimed at the charitable sector.

Analysts at Morgan Stanley said: "We continue to see a very attractive mid-term double-digit earnings growth story and do not see this priced into the stock adequately."

Shares in Sage Group closed up 21¾p, or 2.7 per cent, at 842¾p.

## Glass half full at pub group despite strikes

**Mitchells & Butlers has been tipped to gain "material market share" after delivering a pick-up in sales in the first half of its financial year (Helen Cahill writes).**

**The FTSE-250 pubs chain said like-for-like sales rose by 8.5 per cent for the 28 weeks to April 8 while operating profit fell from £121 million to £99 million.**

**The hospitality sector has faced large increases in the cost of energy and food, but the group said the "cost outlook is now improving". The All Bar One owner also fuelled hopes of an increase to profit estimates by saying that performance was "tracking ahead of management's previous expectations".**

**Mitchells & Butlers' shares are now up 46 per cent this year. Jefferies' analysts said the group's financial resilience would allow it to "win material market share as other smaller operators struggle".**

**Phil Urban, the chain's chief executive, said train strikes had been "painful" for the company, particularly in London. He said: "It depends when they are. If it happens on a Thursday, then that's really bad. You don't only lose Thursday as it's a really strong trading day, but all the trains are in the wrong place on a Friday so people tend to work from home.**

**"So, our results are despite those strikes, which started in August last year. We will therefore reach the anniversary of train strikes in the not-too-distant future."**

**The pub operator still owns most of the freeholds in its property portfolio and analysts at Stifel said this was "underappreciated" in the company's equity valuation.**

**Analysts at Peel Hunt said energy costs were "moving from being a headwind to a tailwind" and that food costs were also becoming less burdensome.**

**Greg Johnson, research analyst at Shore Capital, said: "The real opportunity is arguably in the medium term as cost pressure, especially energy, continues to abate. Given the strength of current trading, the resilience of the first-half performance and the cost outlook, we see scope to raise our full-year estimates." He said that while operating profit had fallen the company had delivered a "resilient performance".**

ALAMY




Mitchells & Butlers sees an "improving" outlook for costs and reported a 8.5 per cent rise in sales despite the "painful" impact of train strikes

# British Land registers £1bn loss as property values fall

Robert Lea

British Land missed market expectations on a key metric gauging the value of its properties as the FTSE 100 property landlord reported losses of more than £1 billion.

The valuation of the company's properties declined 12.3 per cent year-on-year in the 12 months to the end of March, while net tangible assets, a key per-share measure that reflects the value of its buildings, fell 19.5 per cent to 588p, below a company-compiled analysts' estimate of 598p.

The lower profit portfolio valuation sent it to losses of £1.03 billion against profits of £965 million a year earlier.

British Land is best known for its developments at Broadgate, at the heart of the City of London, and in the regeneration around Paddington railway station in west London as well as its investments in retail centres such as Meadowhall in Sheffield.

Shares in the company closed down 21½p, or 5.7 per cent, at 356½p, their worst level in nearly seven months. Further falls would see the stock price testing 30-year lows.

"The past 12 months have been volatile in terms of the economic and political landscape," Simon Carter, chief executive, said, adding that valuations were bottoming out "although, more recently, the outlook for the UK economy is improving, sentiment remains fragile.

"Continued macroeconomic uncertainty remains our central case for the next 12 months. The investment market remains low so there is still some uncertainty on the outlook."

The property market has been hit hard by rising interest rates, soaring inflation, negative investor sentiment and the uncertainty around the future of city-centre offices and the embracing of workforces of so-called hybrid working, which sees them going into the workplace for only part of the week.

The company is increasing the dividend by 3.3 per cent to 22¾p. At these levels the stock is yielding more than 6 per cent.

Andrew Saunders, an analyst at Shore Capital, the broker, said British Land had been hurt by a 13 per cent downward revision in the valuation of its London developments where the City accounts for 29 per cent of the total property portfolio. "This remains one of our key concerns, where we forecast further valuation declines and pressure on rents alongside significant future sustainability investment to meet minimum energy efficient standards legislation," he said.

Saunders added that British Land was diversifying into "small opportunistic add-ons" in the life sciences and urban logistics markets but warned that the company "looks somewhat late to the party".

Land Securities, British Land's close peer in the property market reported a loss of £622 million earlier this week.

A report at the turn of the year by market watchers at Citigroup warned of a 38 per cent fall in London office valuations over the next two to three years not helped by "continued work-from-home office shrinkage"

Tempus, page 44

# Melrose looks to the sky with £10bn strategy for aerospace

Robert Lea

Melrose Industries, the former industrial conglomerate now focused solely on its aerospace businesses, has said it will double profits over the next three years as it aims to become a £10 billion FTSE 100 engineering powerhouse.

Last week the company announced that it has ditched its 20-year business model to "buy, sell, improve" businesses such as GKN.

Melrose has committed to being a "pure-play aerospace" business with no plans, it says, to actively market any part of the group for sale. That is despite its decision to internally split the GKN operations into their constituents: on the one hand making components for Pratt & Whitney, GE and Rolls-Royce jet engines, and on the other hand, parts for wing, fuselage and tail assemblies for Airbus and Boeing as well as business jets and helicopters.

Melrose's makeover follows its demerger of the GKN automotive business last month into a separate London quoted company now called Dowlais. In time, it is likely that Melrose will rename itself Melrose Aerospace.

In presentations to investors, the company revealed the financial dynamics of the aerospace business.

That shows for the first time that the engine operations, which makes the vast majority of its money from aftersales servicing mainly done in Scandinavia, represents only 40 per cent of the group revenues but 80 per cent of the profits.

Melrose claims risk-sharing partnership contractual income with engine-makers applies to all installed legacy engines on Boeing and Airbus short-haul aircraft, which make up much of the world's global airline fleet. Margins in engines are currently running at 22 per cent and will rise to 28 per cent by 2025, the company is predicting.

The recovery in the aerospace market, which went deep into recession during the pandemic, means, it says, that group revenues will rise from £3.4 billion this year to £4 billion in 2025, during which time operating profits will go from £350 million to £700 million.

Shares in Melrose, which have put on about 20 per cent since the demerger of Dowlais, were up a further 5 per cent by 22p to 489½p, valuing the company at about £6.6 billion.

# Inmarsat trading hits new heights

TOM STOCKILL FOR THE SUNDAY TIMES




The satellite company, which is led by Rajeev Suri, saw its revenues grow by 16 per cent to $403 million

**Britain's largest satellite group has enjoyed the strongest quarterly results in its 44-year history in what is set to be its final quarter before a $7.3 billion takeover by Viasat, a US competitor (Alex Ralph writes).**

**Inmarsat said that trading improved across all its business units, with aviation revenues rising by more than a third in the first quarter and maritime delivering its ninth consecutive quarter of year-on-year growth.**

**Revenues grew by 16 per cent in the first quarter to $403 million and underlying earnings rose 32 per cent year-on-year to $259 million. Increased demand and usage of in-flight internet drove sales and business aviation was also up by 28 per cent. The company's customers include IAG, the owner of British Airways and Aer Lingus, and Emirates.**

**Inmarsat provides internet connectivity on aircraft and ships, as well as servicing government contracts. It operates in 37 locations and has about 1,800 employees.**

**The company, which was founded in 1979 and listed in 2005 before being taken private by a consortium in 2019, has 14 satellites in orbit and plans to launch five more by 2025. The company is entering the closing stages of a takeover by Viasat. The deal received clearance by the UK's Competition & Markets Authority last week.**

**Rajeev Suri, 55, Inmarsat's chief executive, said he was confident of getting approval from the European Commission and the US Federal Communications Commission, with a decision "very close".**

**The combination with Viasat comes amid a flurry of consolidation in the industry, including OneWeb, backed by the UK government, and France's Eutelsat.**

**Suri said that there were 55 satellite companies and expected "the shake-out will continue over the next few years".**


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# Admiral raises $550m in flagship listing for London

**Alex Ralph**

A blank-cheque investment vehicle co-founded by a veteran dealmaker has raised $550 million, making it Britain's largest stock market listing in more than a year.

Admiral Acquisition, founded by Sir Martin Franklin, a British-born, US-based businessman, said it was looking to a target company for acquisition and the search "will not be limited to a particular industry or geographic region".

The company, which is based in the British Virgin Islands, placed its shares at $10 each on the London Stock Exchange in a listing that was handled by Jefferies and UBS.

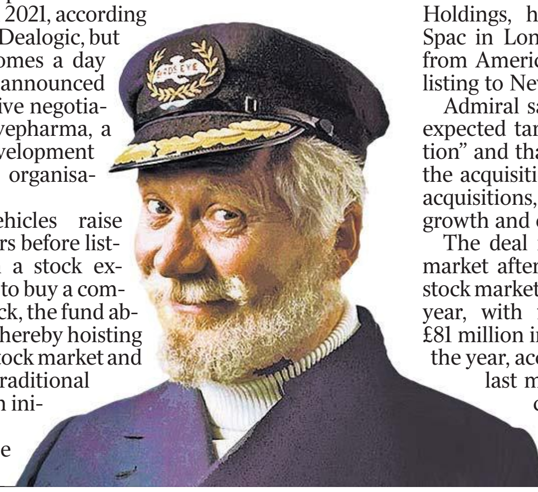
Blank-cheque firms, also known as special purpose acquisition companies, or Spacs, soared in popularity in 2020 and 2021 — particularly in the United States — and were seen as a faster and less cumbersome way to list than a traditional IPO.

The Spacs craze raised concerns that London was being left behind, but the boom has since run out of steam and a number of vehicles have been forced to liquidate after struggling to find a suitable acquisition and being hit by investor redemptions.

Prominent deals have included Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic and Cazoo, the online car retailer, which have both since suffered slumps in their share prices in New York.

Last year, only 20 Spacs were listed in Europe against 45 in 2021, according to the data provider Dealogic, but the Admiral deal comes a day after a French Spac announced that it was in exclusive negotiations to acquire Skyepharma, a drug contract development and manufacturing organisation.

Blank-cheque vehicles raise money from investors before listing their shares on a stock exchange and then try to buy a company. If a deal is struck, the fund absorbs the company, thereby hoisting it straight on to the stock market and circumventing the traditional route to market of an initial public offering.



**Nomad Foods raised $500 million in 2014 and went on to buy Birds Eye, the frozen foods brand**

Franklin, 58, the son of Sir Roland Franklin, the merchant banker, is a serial Spac dealmaker and his previous ventures have included Nomad Foods in 2014, which raised $500 million and went on to buy Aunt Bessie's and Birds Eye, the frozen foods brands.

Two years ago, Franklin said that he had been forced to withdraw Harvester Holdings, his proposed $750 million Spac in London, because of pressure from American investors to move the listing to New York.

Admiral said there was "no specific expected target value for the acquisition" and that "any funds not used for the acquisition will be used for future acquisitions, internal or external growth and expansion".

The deal is a boost to the London market after a dearth of listings. The stock market endured a slow start to the year, with five issuers raising only £81 million in the first three months of the year, according to figures from EY last month. It marked a significant decline on the same period in 2021, which saw £5.7 billion raised.

# Experian slides after sales growth downgrade

**Jessica Newman**

Investors were left disappointed with Experian after the credit scoring group said that it expected organic sales growth to slow to between 4 per cent and 6 per cent.

Shares in the FTSE 100 company, one of the biggest and best-performing blue-chip stocks of the past decade, fell by 5p, or 0.2 per cent, to £27.35.

Brian Cassin, the chief executive, cited a combination of new business wins, new products and expansion into higher growth markets for delivering "very strong results". For the year to the end of March, the Dublin-based company reported a 5 per cent increase in revenues to $6.62 billion, broadly in line with analysts expectations.

Profits before tax fell 19 per cent to $1.17 billion, mainly, it said, due to a goodwill impairment to European businesses. All four regions it operates in contributed to growth, with Latin America being the top performer.

However, there was disappointment at revenue growth guidance for the current year.

Cassin said he expects "organic revenue growth in the range of 4 per cent to 6 per cent and modest margin accretion". The consensus view of analysts for this year had been 5.8 per cent before the results were reported. The business has been impacted by tighter lending conditions, especially in North America where the failure of three US regional banks has hurt confidence in the sector. About 67 per cent of Experian's group revenue comes from North America.

Experian is the world's biggest credit data company, calculating credit scores for about a billion people and businesses and selling the information to banks, credit card companies and the many other businesses that extend credit to customers. The company employs more than 21,000 people who operate across 30 countries.

**$1.17bn**
**Profits before tax — a fall of 19 per cent**
Source: Experian

# Trust boss in call for patience after share price slumps by 33%

**Ben Martin** Banking Editor

The manager of the beleaguered Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust has conceded that it has endured a "painful" year but called on shareholders to be patient with the former stock market darling.

Tom Slater used the FTSE 100 trust's annual results to defend its investment performance following a torrid period for the company, which in the year to the end of March, suffered a 19.7 per cent slide in its net asset value and a 33.5 per cent share price slump. A recent board bust up has added to the woes.

Yet Slater insisted that the trust had made "significant operational progress" and that while this "has not translated into our investment results lately, we need to remain disciplined and patient". He added: "We know this has been painful for shareholders, but history shows that periods of poor performance are inevitable."

Fiona McBain, the trust's outgoing chairman, said the results were "disappointing" but the board "remains confident that Scottish Mortgage is a strong long-term investment".

"Our view is that this represents too short a timeframe on which to judge returns given the long-term nature of the investment strategy," she added, noting that Scottish Mortgage's net asset value had still risen by 432 per cent in the past decade, outstripping the 181 per cent rise in the FTSE All-World index.

Started in 1909, Scottish Mortgage, which is run by the Edinburgh-based investment group Baillie Gifford and has a stock market value of £8.7 billion, has become one of Britain's most popular investment trusts, making its name for lucrative technology industry bets.

It was an early backer of Amazon, Apple and Alphabet, which owns Google, delivering bumper returns. Its positions include stakes in unlisted companies, with private businesses making up 28.6 per cent of its portfolio.

It has been a long-term shareholder in Illumina, a US-listed gene-reading equipment maker, but said yesterday that it had "substantially reduced" its stake in the company. Illumina has been one of the drivers of Scottish Mortgage's recent underperformance.

Under James Anderson, who managed the trust for 22 years before stepping down in April last year, Scottish Mortgage returned 1,155 per cent. Slater was initially Anderson's deputy manager before he was promoted to jointly run the trust. He now manages it with Lawrence Burns. The trust's performance began to sour as Anderson headed for the exit after it was hit by a wider sell-off in tech shares.

This year its board was also embroiled in a row after Professor Amar Bhidé, who was a non-executive, accused the trust of governance violations and questioned McBain's independence. Bhidé left the board in March, the same month that McBain said she would retire from the trust and would be succeeded by Justin Dowley, its senior independent director.

McBain said there had been "a fundamental difference in view" on the suitability of the company's investment policy as it related to "the company's ability to invest in companies not listed on a public market" and about its liquidity policy. Scottish Mortgage's shares closed up 1p, or 0.16% at 622p.

**1,155%**
Scottish Mortgage returns under James Anderson
Source: Scottish Mortgage

FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP




## UBS to bank $35bn gain on Credit Suisse

**The emergency takeover of Credit Suisse is expected to generate a one-off gain of almost $35 billion for the rescuer UBS because of the knockdown price of the government-brokered deal (Ben Martin writes).**

**The accounting boost that UBS estimated it will enjoy from the acquisition is likely to be one of the largest ever enjoyed by a bank, although the lender also warned that it expected to take a separate hit of $17 billion from the deal.**

**It comes after UBS agreed in March to buy Credit Suisse for SwFr3 billion, less than half the SwFr7.4 billion market capitalisation of its stricken rival immediately before the takeover was struck.**

**UBS was pushed into the deal by the Swiss authorities to avoid a collapse of what is the country's second-biggest lender. Shares in Credit Suisse had tumbled in the days before its rescue and clients had pulled tens of billions of francs from the bank amid fears over its health.**

**As a result of the turmoil, UBS has bought Credit Suisse for well-below fair value. This will lead to an accounting gain, known as "negative goodwill", which UBS has estimated will amount to about $34.8 billion.**

**UBS also warned the tie-up will involve costs elsewhere, including $13 billion of write-downs on Credit Suisse assets. Litigation and regulatory costs could amount to $4 billion.**

# Consortium sells more stock in exchange

**Ben Martin**

The former owners of Refinitiv have sold a further £2.7 billion of the shareholding in London Stock Exchange Group that they received when they sold the data business.

The American private equity giant Blackstone; Thomson Reuters, the news and information group; Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and GIC, the Singaporean sovereign wealth fund, have together sold 33 million shares, the equivalent of a stake of about 6 per cent in LSEG, for £80.50 apiece, it was confirmed yesterday.

The group of investors had previously sold stock worth £2 billion in March. They are left with a stake of just under 19 per cent, having owned about a third of LSEG immediately after the $27 billion sale of Refinitiv in January 2021.

Buying Refinitiv was the first big strategic move made by David Schwimmer, a former Goldman Sachs banker who became LSEG's chief executive in 2018.

Data and analytics is now by far LSEG's biggest division by revenue as a result of the Refinitiv takeover. It generated income of £1.3 billion in the first quarter of this year out of a group total of £2 billion, a trading statement from the company last month said.

As is typical with large share sales, the latest disposal by Refinitiv's former owners was struck at a lower level than LSEG's closing share price on Tuesday evening. The discount was about 5 per cent, pushing the company's shares down 240p, or 2.83 per cent, to £82.32.

The investor group sold more than was originally planned. On Tuesday evening, when the deal was first announced, the consortium had said it planned to offload 28 million shares. Bankers at Barclays, Citigroup, JPMorgan, and Bank of America handled the transaction. The investor group's stake is expected to shrink further in the coming year. At LSEG's annual shareholder meeting last month it secured investor approval to buy back as much as £750 million of stock from the consortium by April 2024.

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*Emma Powell* **Tempus**

*Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips*



# Landlord building for rental revival

**BRITISH LAND**

| Net asset value per share 596p | Dividend yield 6.1% |
|---|---|

Is British Land's heavier markdown in the value of its assets than its major rival a sign of prudence or evidence of a more brutal reality?

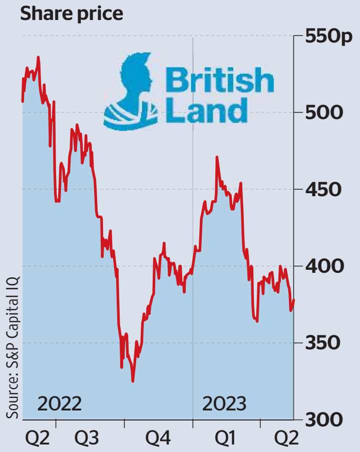
The commercial landlord took a 12 per cent reduction in the underlying value of its portfolio, worse than analysts had forecast and higher than Land Securities' 8 per cent a day earlier. That translated into a 18 per cent fall in the net asset value to 596p a share, compared with the same point last year.

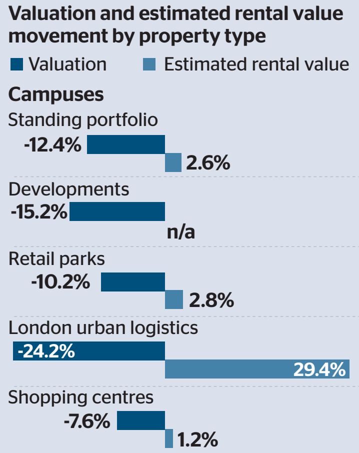
The culprit for British Land's more dramatic downfall is a higher weighting towards the City of London, which has suffered a steeper fall than the West End, and a tilt towards urban logistics assets in the centre of the capital, which had clocked up eye-watering levels of value and rental growth.

Like his counterpart at Land Securities, Simon Carter, British Land's boss, thinks the bottom is in sight for property valuations, after a heady 2 percentage points rise in the second half of the property group's financial year. Investors seem to disagree, with the shares changing hands at a near 40 per cent discount to the NAV forecast by analysts at the end of March next year.

Carter and his peers are waiting on rental growth to reassure investors that the value of its estate doesn't need to take another writedown. About 3.4 million sq ft of space was let, 15.1 per cent ahead of estimated rental values, with 914,000 sq ft under offer, 18.4 per cent ahead of rental values. Then again, that reflects an element of catch-up from the dearth of new leases agreed during the pandemic. A truer picture should emerge over the next year.

***Hope of glory***




**ADVICE** Hold
**WHY** The shares offer a generous dividend yield but the prospects for rental growth remains uncertain

Higher rental income fed through to an increase in underlying earnings, and a boost to the dividend to 22.64p a share, which leaves the shares offering a potential yield of 6.3 per cent at today's share price.

A decision to pursue retail parks over shopping centres, anchored to high street locations where footfall has fluctuated more dramatically, seems astute. British Land's sites have a 99 per cent occupancy rate, which should give it more leverage in negotiating rents higher. Growth in estimated rental values of almost 3 per cent was at the top end of guidance.

Any concerns around the strength of future rents shouldn't extend to any relating to the health of the balance sheet. The loan-to-value ratio is well within an internal target range of 30-40 per cent, even if the valuation decline did force a 3.1 percentage point increase in the ratio from the same point last year to 36 per cent. The group can withstand a 36 per cent decline in valuations and keep within its banking covenants.

Almost £2 billion in cash and undrawn debt leaves enough liquidity to finance its committed developments, some 1.8 million sq ft and costing £488 million to complete. But more asset sales will be required to build out a near-term pipeline of office and logistics schemes within London, spanning the same amount of ground and requiring £947 million in funds to finish.

What price the group gets for assets it sells is up for debate, particularly as potential bidders may question the level of rental growth that can be generated from central London offices. The £746 million in properties sold last year was mainly from the sale of 75 per cent of the mixed-use Paddington Central site. That £694 million deal represented a 1 per cent discount to the book value at September 2021. Like Land Securities, British Land intends to be a "net seller" of assets over the next year. Unlike its major rival, it has, helpfully, not given itself a target for the proceeds it expects to raise.

More proof on rental growth is needed before the shares can be deemed a bargain.

**JD SPORTS**

| Market cap £8.78bn | Annual pre-tax profit £441m |
|---|---|

JD Sports shareholders have become used to the athleisure juggernaut raising their expectations. There was none of that alongside annual results, despite early trading for the new year revealing a 15 per cent organic rise in sales for the first 13 weeks.

A heap of charges relating to the sale of side plays, as well as acquisitions and an option to buy a minority stake in one of its existing Spanish businesses, pushed down pre-tax profit by a third to £441 million. Strip out those one-offs and adjusted profits closed in on £1 billion, at £991 million, 5 per cent higher than last year. The FTSE 100 group is set to break that landmark threshold this financial year, which would put it among a small clutch of British retailers to achieve profits of that magnitude.

Importantly, half of the 15 per cent underlying sales increase during the first quarter was from higher volumes, not just more fleeting price inflation. Supply chain issues in the US have been resolved, helping to boost sales during the second half of last year.

More stock did bring with it the return of promotional activity in that market, which weighed on the group gross margin.

Take out the boost from shoppers in the home market splashing out savings accrued during lockdown and US consumers spending their Covid cheques and the shares still look cheap by historic standards. At 13 times forward earnings, the shares are valued at a discount to a five-year average multiple of 17.

True, we are in the midst of an economic downturn and cost inflation lingers. But a paltry valuation doesn't reflect the resilience of organic sales, or the potential boon to earnings from ambitious expansion plans over the next few years. Those plans are backed by a strong level of liquidity on the balance sheet, with net cash of almost £1.5 billion, which should be supplemented by a high level of cash generation within the business.

Europe and the US remain the prime avenues for extending the group's footprint, part of plans to deliver double-digit revenue growth each year alongside a double-digit operating margin. Those look like targets to bet on.

**ADVICE** Buy
**WHY** Shares look too cheap given strong sales growth

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### £8m energy bill

More than 100,000 households have belatedly received compensation payments of up to £60 from their former energy suppliers after being kept waiting for final bills. E.On Next, Octopus Energy and Good Energy have paid out a total of £8 million to customers and a voluntary redress scheme over the failings, Ofgem said.

Suppliers should pay £30 if they fail to issue final bills for departing customers within six weeks, plus an extra £30 if the compensation is not paid within ten days.

### Target sales take a hit

Target Corporation forecast a tough second quarter as the US retailer struggles with consumers shunning non-essentials, such as electronics, in the face of high prices, but maintained its full-year profit expectations. Its lacklustre outlook follows bleak numbers from The Home Depot, the home improvement chain, which said it expected a steeper-than-expected drop in annual profit. Walmart, which gets more than half of its revenue from groceries, is set to report today.

### BMG hires media scion

Thomas Coesfeld, 33, the scion of one of Europe's most powerful media families, is to take charge of BMG, the music label owned by Bertelsmann, one of Europe's biggest media groups. He will take over in July from Hartwig Masuch, the outgoing chief executive, who has headed BMG since 2008. Coesfeld's brother, Carsten, was appointed last year as head of the investment group within Bertelsmann, which also owns Penguin Random House, the publisher.

### Chipmaker sales fall

Chip components maker IQE reported a 2 per cent drop in its annual revenue, hit by reduced orders amid weak demand for consumer electronics. Revenue on a constant currency basis fell to £151.2 million for the year to the end of December from £154.1 million previously. IQE, which announced fundraising worth £30 million via a placing of shares, makes "epi-wafers", an advanced material used in products from laser hair removal to facial recognition sensors.

# PRICES

## Major indices

| | |
|---|---|
| **New York** | |
| Dow Jones | 33420.77 (+408.63) |
| Nasdaq Composite | 12500.57 (+157.51) |
| S&P 500 | 4158.77 (+48.87) |
| **Tokyo** | |
| Nikkei 225 | 30093.59 (+250.60) |
| **Hong Kong** | |
| Hang Seng | 19560.57 (-417.68) |
| **Amsterdam** | |
| AEX Index | 758.28 (+2.06) |
| **Sydney** | |
| AO | 7389.30 (-34.80) |
| **Frankfurt** | |
| DAX | 15951.30 (+53.37) |
| **Singapore** | |
| Straits | 3173.84 (-40.20) |
| **Brussels** | |
| BEL20 | 3681.50 (-7.39) |
| **Paris** | |
| CAC-40 | 7399.44 (-6.57) |
| **Zurich** | |
| SMI Index | 11437.78 (-82.09) |
| **DJ Euro Stoxx 50** | 4323.23 (+7.72) |
| **London** | |
| FTSE 100 | 7723.23 (-27.85) |
| FTSE 250 | 19215.45 (-57.27) |
| FTSE 350 | 4253.73 (-14.96) |
| FTSE Eurotop 100 | 3648.77 (-3.18) |
| FTSE All-Shares | 4210.17 (-14.59) |
| FTSE Non Financials | 5129.03 (-20.07) |
| techMARK 100 | 6916.68 (+1.62) |
| Bargains | n/a |
| US$ | 1.2492 (+0.0008) |
| Euro | 1.1524 (+0.0036) |
| £:SDR | 0.98 (+0.00) |
| Exchange Index | 80.13 (-0.04) |
| Bank of England official close (4pm) | |
| CPI | 128.87 Mar (2015 = 100) |
| RPI | 367.20 Mar (Jan 1987 = 100) |
| RPIX | 290.10 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100) |
| Morningstar Long Commodity | 677.16 (+5.72) |
| Morningstar Long/Short Commod | 4703.45 (+27.75) |

## London Financial Futures

| | Period | Open | High | Low | Sett | Vol | Open Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Long Gilt** | Jun 23 | 100.61 | 100.88 | 100.14 | 100.36 | 165897 | 505266 |
| | SEP 23 | 100.16 | 100.16 | 100.10 | 100.24 | 321 | 56 |
| **3-Mth Sterling** | Jun 23 | | | | | | |
| | Sep 23 | | | | | | |
| | Dec 23 | | | | | | |
| | Mar 24 | | | | | | |
| | Jun 24 | | | | | | |
| **3-Mth Euribor** | Jun 23 | 96.430 | 96.440 | 96.420 | 96.430 | 78405 | 531167 |
| | Sep 23 | 96.230 | 96.240 | 96.195 | 96.210 | 95121 | 612817 |
| | Dec 23 | 96.345 | 96.360 | 96.285 | 96.305 | 79847 | 373447 |
| | Mar 24 | 96.570 | 96.595 | 96.500 | 96.520 | 73042 | 341083 |
| | Jun 24 | 96.835 | 96.860 | 96.745 | 96.775 | 73355 | 300281 |
| **3-Mth Euroswiss** | Jun 23 | | | | | | |
| | Sep 23 | | | | | | |
| | Dec 23 | | | | | | |
| | Mar 24 | | | | | | |
| **FTSE100** | Jun 23 | 7737.0 | 7761.5 | 7713.0 | 7721.0 | 89492 | 600121 |
| | Sep 23 | 7733.0 | 7733.0 | 7733.0 | 7731.5 | 3 | 3107 |
| **FTSEurofirst 80** | Jun 23 | | | | 5813.0 | | |
| | Sep 23 | | | | 5853.5 | | |

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## Commodities

**ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)**

**Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Brent Physical | 76.98 | +1.88 |
| BFOE(Jul) | 77.02 | +2.05 |
| BFOE(Aug) | 76.87 | +2.09 |
| WTI(Jul) | 72.89 | +2.05 |
| WTI(Aug) | 72.77 | +2.11 |

**Products ($/MT)**

**Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Premium Unld | 828.00 | 832.00 | +10.00 |
| Gasoil EEC | 696.50 | 697.50 | +14.00 |
| 3.5 Fuel Oil | 405.00 | 405.00 | +10.00 |
| Naphtha | 584.00 | 598.00 | +10.00 |

**ICE Futures**

**Gas Oil**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jun | 698.75-698.50 | Sep | 693.25-692.75 |
| Jul | 693.50-693.25 | Oct | 694.75-694.25 |
| Aug | 692.25-691.75 | | Volume: 709068 |

**Brent (9.00pm)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jul | 76.44-76.42 | Oct | 75.66-75.62 |
| Aug | 76.29-76.28 | Nov | 75.33-75.30 |
| Sep | 76.00-75.98 | | Volume: 1951871 |

**LIFFE**

**Cocoa**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jul | 2307-2305 | Sep | 2100-2055 |
| Sep | 2277-2276 | Dec | 2087-2053 |
| Dec | 2223-2221 | Mar | 2051-1880 |
| Mar | 2157-2152 | | |
| May | 2131-2116 | | |
| Jul | 2113-2080 | | Volume: 71027 |

**RobustaCoffee**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| May | 2693-2680 | Jan | 2475-2350 |
| Jul | 2577-2575 | Mar | 2430-2100 |
| Sep | 2533-2527 | | |
| Nov | 2490-2459 | | Volume: 25453 |

**White Sugar (FOB)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Reuters** | | Mar | 677.90-676.10 |
| | | May | 660.90-657.60 |
| Aug | 711.00-710.60 | Aug | 635.80-632.80 |
| Oct | 700.00-699.00 | Oct | 621.80-590.00 |
| Dec | 689.30-687.80 | | Volume: 70588 |

# Slowdown in commercial deals is shock for Savills



**Jessica Newman** Market report

Estate agents are right up there with journalists and politicians when it comes to popular hate figures. But at the moment the City has a particular aversion to Savills.

Its army of property agents perhaps shouldn't be personally offended by investors' scorn. Everyone knows it's not a good time to be in the property industry given spiralling interest rates and economic uncertainty.

However, sympathy was in short supply as Savills' shares declined 42p, or 4.5 per cent, to a four-month low of 896p. The latest drop in the FTSE 250 group's shares came as it said that its commercial transaction business has been "clearly" affected as global capital transaction volumes fell to their lowest level in a decade. While the company noted its less transactional businesses remained resilient and have helped underpin the group's overall performance, it said the first half "will be materially impacted by the ongoing recalibration of global investment markets".

Due to the uncertainty on timing around the recovery in commercial transactional levels, Savills now sees a wider range of potential for the year. Consensus among analysts is that the group will deliver pre-tax profits of £139 million to £158 million this year.

While Savills did not provide any figures in its update, Peel Hunt suspects consensus expectations will drop by 3 to 5 per cent.

Savills was one of the worst performers on another lacklustre day of trading in London as weak corporate news and concerns about US debt ceiling negotiations weighed on sentiment. The FTSE 100 ended the day 27.85 points, or 0.4 per cent, lower at 7,723.23, while the FTSE 250 retreated 57.27 points, or 0.3 per cent, to 19,215.45. **British Land** joined JD Sports and London Stock Exchange Group at the bottom of the senior index as it reported that net asset value per share fell 19 per cent to 588p in the year to the end of March, marking a sharper drop than City analysts were expecting. The property firm's shares slipped 21½p, or 5.7 per cent, to a seven-month low of 356½p.

**Ninety One** was another big disappointment. The fund management group dropped 12p, or 7 per cent, to 160½p after reporting a 10 per cent decline in assets under management to £129.3 billion in the year to March 31 as UK clients pulled £2.3 billion out of its funds. Shares in **Coats Group**, the world's biggest maker of industrial threads, dipped 5p, or 6.4 per cent, to 68¼p, its lowest level since the start of the year, as it posted a 20 per cent drop in organic sales in the four months to April 30.

A disappointing trading update from **TP ICAP** dragged shares in the interdealer broker down 6¼p, or 3.7 per cent, to 162¾p, while **Bank of Georgia**, the country's biggest retail bank, fell back 125p, or 3.7 per cent, to £32.50 despite reporting a rise in first-quarter income. By contrast, some of London's big miners were among the top-flight winners. Tracking a rebound in copper prices, the Chilean miner **Antofagasta** gained 22½p, or 1.6 per cent, to £14.26½p, while the commodities group **Glencore** added 4¼p, or 1 per cent, to 436½p.

It was **Melrose Industries**, however, that topped the FTSE 100, climbing 20¾p, or 4.4 per cent, to 488p after saying its restructuring efforts to focus on aerospace will allow it to buy back 5 to 10 per cent of its market value annually from next year. A better-than-expected start to the year for **Keller** boosted the engineering contractor 36p, or 5.7 per cent, higher to 672p, while an increase in first-half revenues for **Auction Technology Group** propelled the operator of online auctions up 53p, or 7.9 per cent, to 723p.

## Wall Street report

**At the end of a poor earnings season indices rose led by a rally in regional bank stocks and optimism that some progress is being made in talks to raise the debt ceiling. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 408.63 points, or 1.2 per cent, to 33,420.77.**

RETAIL

## Frasers raises its stake in Asos

**Mike Ashley's Frasers Group gave Asos shares a much-needed boost on Wednesday as it raised its stake in the troubled online fashion retailer.**

**The Sports Direct owner, which has been building a stake in Asos since last year, has increased its position to 7.4 per cent, up from 5.1 per cent, according to a stock exchange filing. Frasers remains a top-five shareholder in the business.**

**Frasers has a long record of taking punts on distressed listed companies with a view to profiting from any recovery in their share prices. In addition to Sports Direct, the retailer founded 40 years ago by Mike Ashley, Frasers owns a string of other high street names, including House of Fraser, Jack Wills and Evans Cycles. Last year it bought Missguided out of administration and began building a stake in N Brown, the online retailer behind brands including JD Williams and Jacamo.**

**The rout in Asos shares, which have declined about 70 per cent since this time last year, accelerated last week after it said pre-tax losses had swelled to £291 million in the first half of the year, from £15.8 million a year earlier, with revenues sliding 8 per cent to £1.8 billion. Shares in Asos rose 31¼p, or 7.8 per cent, to 430p.**



Asos shares have fallen out of fashion as its losses hit £291 million

XAVI TORRENT/GETTY IMAGES




## Fast-fashion firm Shein raises $2bn

**Shein's latest funding round has reportedly lowered its $100 billion valuation by a third (Isabella Fish writes).**

**The Chinese fashion giant raised $2 billion, according to the Wall Street Journal, valuing the company at $66 billion.**

**The online retailer was valued at more than $100 billion at its peak, making it worth more than the high street companies H&M and Zara combined.**

**The "ultra-fast" fashion retailer, which was founded in China and is now based in Singapore, cut its valuation because tech-company share prices have come down, according to WSJ. Shein declined to comment on the fundraising reports.**

**Shein — pronounced "She-in" — was founded in 2008 by the entrepreneur Chris Xu. It generated $23 billion in revenue and $800 million net profit last year, WSJ said.**

**The company has adapted the fast-fashion model pioneered by its competitors. By using real-time technology and a well-drilled supply chain, Shein has found a way to do it cheaper and faster.**

**It is growing in the United States and threatens to disrupt established global players such as Spain's Inditex and Sweden's H&M Group. Its UK rivals Boohoo Group and Asos are also feeling the heat.**

**Yet the company sees itself as different from the pack because its output is "demand-led". Donald Tang, its executive vice-chairman, said that the customer effectively controls design, dictating styles, colours and patterns by their choices.**

## The day's biggest movers

| Company | Change |
|---|---|
| **Auction Technology Group** Positive first half | 7.9% |
| **Asos** Frasers Group ups stake in retailer | 7.8% |
| **Keller Group** Strong start to the year | 5.7% |
| **Melrose Industries** Raises expectations for 2025 | 4.4% |
| **Sage Group** Strong first-half results | 2.7% |
| **Savills** First half "materially" affected by market slowdown | -4.5% |
| **British Land** Property portfolio value drops | -5.7% |
| **Watches of Switzerland** Warns of sales decline | -5.8% |
| **Coats Group** Drop in first-quarter revenues | -6.4% |
| **Ninety One** Weak annual results | -7.0% |

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May | 186.00 | Jul | 190.00 | Nov | 190.05 |
| Jan | unq | Mar | unq | Volume: 1022 | |

London Metal Exchange

(Official)

| Cash | 3mth | Dec 22 |
|---|---|---|
| **Copper Gde A ($/tonne)** | | |
| 8175.0-8176.0 | 8207.0-8209.0 | 8270.0-8280.0 |
| **Lead ($/tonne)** | | |
| 2049.0-2050.0 | 2059.0-2060.0 | 2095.0-2100.0 |
| **Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)** | | |
| 2520.5-2521.5 | 2530.0-2532.0 | 2545.0-2550.0 |
| **Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)** | | |
| 2268.5-2269.0 | 2273.0-2273.5 | 2440.0-2445.0 |
| **Nickel ($/tonne)** | | |
| 21300.0-21320.0 | 21375.0-21425.0 | 22580.0-22630.0 |
| **Tin ($/tonne)** | | **15mth** |
| 25100.0-25150.0 | 24800.0-24900.0 | 24245.0-24295.0 |

## Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)

**Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Tuesday.**

**Bullion: Open** $1989.50

**Close** $1981.78-1981.99 **High** $1992.85

**Low** $1975.32

**AM** $2009.90 **PM** $2007.45

**Krugerrand** $1172.00-1244.00 (£938.57-996.23)

**Platinum** $1092.00 (£874.50)

**Silver** $23.71 (£18.99)

**Palladium** $1721.11 (£1378.31)

## European money deposits %

| Currency | 1mth | 3mth | 6mth | 12mth |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dollar | 0.13 | 0.20 | 0.29 | 0.55 |
| Sterling | 4.20 | 4.69 | 4.74 | 0.81 |
| Euro | 0.10 | 0.15 | 0.20 | 0.50 |

## Money rates %

**Base Rates** Clearing Banks 4.50 ECB Refi 2.50 US Fed Fund 4.50-4.75

**Halifax Mortgage Rate** 3.99

**Treasury Bills (Dis)** Buy: 1 mth 4.430; 3 mth 4.586. Sell: 1 mth 4.200; 3 mth 4.400

| | 1 mth | 2 mth | 3 mth | 6 mth | 12 mth |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Interbank Rates** | 4.2013 | 0.000 | 4.6877 | 4.7447 | 0.00 |
| **Eurodollar Deps** | 5.33-5.33 | 5.41-5.43 | 5.04-5.04 | 4.67-4.67 | 3.82-3.82 |

## Sterling spot and forward rates

| Mkt Rates for | Range | Close | 1 month | 3 month |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Copenhagen | 8.5373-8.5823 | 8.5819-8.5831 | 120ds | 362ds |
| Euro | 1.1527-1.1468 | 1.1526-1.1525 | 10pr | 30pr |
| Montreal | 1.6780-1.6829 | 1.6808-1.6810 | 0pr | 3ds |
| New York | 1.2421-1.2492 | 1.2486-1.2487 | 8pr | 21pr |
| Oslo | 13.359-13.498 | 13.461-13.464 | 125ds | 343ds |
| Stockholm | 12.961-13.057 | 13.048-13.052 | 210ds | 602ds |
| Tokyo | 170.12-171.67 | 171.67-171.69 | 71ds | 217ds |
| Zurich | 1.1160-1.1247 | 1.1222-1.1224 | 32ds | 96ds |

Premium = pr Discount = ds

## Dollar rates

| | |
|---|---|
| Australia | 1.5019-1.5020 |
| Canada | 1.3461-1.3462 |
| Denmark | 6.8730-6.8735 |
| Euro | 0.9230-0.9230 |
| Hong Kong | 7.8301-7.8303 |
| Japan | 137.49-137.49 |
| Malaysia | 4.4950-4.5000 |
| Norway | 10.779-10.783 |
| Singapore | 1.3420-1.3422 |
| Sweden | 10.450-10.452 |
| Switzerland | 0.8987-0.8988 |

## Other Sterling

| | |
|---|---|
| Argentina peso | 289.21-289.22 |
| Australia dollar | 1.8754-1.8756 |
| Bahrain dinar | 0.4670-0.4740 |
| Brazil real | 6.1614-6.1767 |
| Euro | 1.1524-1.1526 |
| Hong Kong dollar | 9.7768-9.7778 |
| India rupee | 102.88-102.90 |
| Indonesia rupiah | 18576-18576 |
| Kuwait dinar KD | 0.3821-0.3844 |
| Malaysia ringgit | 5.6032-5.6094 |
| New Zealand dollar | 1.9959-1.9963 |
| Singapore dollar | 1.6757-1.6760 |
| S Africa rand | 24.045-24.056 |
| U A E dirham | 4.5760-4.5785 |

## Exchange rates

| | Bid | Change |
|---|---|---|
| Australia $ | 1.877 | |
| Canada $ | 1.681 | |
| Denmark Kr | 8.580 | +0.02 |
| Euro € | 1.152 | |
| Hong Kong $ | 9.762 | -0.03 |
| Hungary | 426.629 | +3.16 |
| Indonesia | 18531.447 | +12.47 |
| Israel Shk | 4.546 | -0.02 |
| Japan Yen | 171.321 | +0.75 |
| New Zealand $ | 1.999 | -0.01 |
| Norway Kr | 13.493 | +0.11 |
| Poland | 5.202 | +0.04 |
| Russia | 100.355 | -0.42 |
| S Africa Rd | 24.063 | +0.23 |
| Sweden Kr | 13.053 | +0.05 |
| Switzerland Fr | 1.121 | |
| Turkey Lira | 24.632 | -0.01 |
| USA $ | 1.247 | |

Rates supplied by Morningstar

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# The Times unit trust information service

### ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
**Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gilt Yield A ‡@ | 206.01 | ... | +0.27 | 1.05 |
| Strategic Bond Fund ‡@ | 152.82 | ... | -0.55 | 4.57 |
| UK Corp Bond C ‡@ | 104.79 | ... | -0.78 | 3.87 |
| UK Eqty C ‡@ | 6317.26 | ... | -14.91 | 3.28 |
| UK Eqty Inc A ‡@ | 323.38 | ... | -1.56 | 4.51 |
| UK Gwth A ‡@ | 8076.79 | ... | -39.27 | ... |
| UK Index A Inc ‡@ | 1423.81 | ... | -5.83 | 3.01 |
| UK Mid Cap A ‡@ | 4654.61 | ... | -11.35 | ... |

### ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD
**0800 092 2051**
**Authorised Inv Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Capital R Acc ‡@ | 2177.73 | ... | -11.41 | 3.35 |
| Euro Opps R Acc ‡@ | 91.26 | ... | -0.48 | 1.29 |
| Euro Opps R Inc ‡@ | 85.36 | ... | -0.46 | 1.30 |
| European Growth R Acc ‡@ | 400.34 | ... | -2.27 | 1.87 |
| Global Energy R Acc ‡@ | 39.04 | ... | -0.07 | 1.21 |
| Global Growth R Acc ‡@ | 336.93 | ... | -0.02 | ... |
| Global Income R Acc ‡@ | 150.89 | ... | -0.62 | 4.33 |
| Global Income R Inc ‡@ | 94.86 | ... | -0.39 | 4.54 |
| Global Select R Acc ‡@ | 149.51 | ... | +0.46 | ... |
| High Income R Inc ‡@ | 62.17 | ... | -0.17 | ... |
| Income R Acc ‡@ | 514.61 | ... | -3.71 | 3.77 |
| Income R Inc ‡@ | 220.92 | ... | -1.60 | 3.89 |
| Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@ | 63.17 | ... | -0.24 | 4.84 |
| Strategic Assets R Acc ‡@ | 92.66 | ... | +0.43 | ... |
| Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@ | 95.76 | ... | -0.24 | 3.69 |
| Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@ | 49.81 | ... | -0.12 | 3.78 |
| Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@ | 95.59 | ... | -0.23 | 3.69 |
| Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@ | 49.76 | ... | -0.13 | 3.76 |
| UK Growth R Acc ‡@ | 735.57 | ... | -2.38 | 2.14 |
| UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@ | 1850.23 | ... | -5.88 | ... |
| UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@ | 709.83 | ... | -3.48 | 1.11 |

### AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
**Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Equity Inc ‡@ | 572.40 | ... | -2.70 | 4.43 |
| Gilt Acc @ | 201.30 | 211.80 | +0.10 | 1.08 |
| Gilt Inc @ | 74.35 | 78.24 | -0.39 | 1.09 |
| Health Acc ‡@ | 3019.00 | ... | -10.00 | ... |
| Jap Smlr Co Ac @ | 62.56 | 66.09 | -0.19 | 0.30 |
| Managed Inc ‡@ | 138.30 | ... | ... | 4.20 |
| Monthly Inc Inc ‡@ | 209.10 | ... | -0.60 | 5.97 |
| UK Growth Inc ‡@ | 216.20 | ... | -1.30 | 0.64 |
| UK Select Opps Inc ‡@ | 1885.00 | ... | -5.00 | 1.14 |
| UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@ | 261.10 | ... | -0.60 | 0.04 |

### AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
**Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808**
**AXA Trusts**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gen Acc ‡@ | 2101.00 | ... | +6.00 | 2.64 |
| Gen Inc ‡@ | 1079.00 | ... | -2.00 | 2.70 |

**UK/Global Investment Companies**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Euro Acc A ‡@ | 234.70 | ... | ... | 1.18 |
| Extra Inc Inc B ‡@ | 86.74 | ... | +0.24 | 1.16 |
| Global Gwth Acc R ‡@ | 288.10 | ... | +4.10 | 0.52 |
| Japan Acc A ‡@ | 162.30 | ... | +2.20 | 1.51 |
| Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@ | 479.80 | ... | -17.60 | ... |

### CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
**08457 46 46 46**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| European Gwth ‡@ | 213.70 | ... | -0.60 | 1.10 |
| Sus Leaders ‡@ | 805.00 | ... | -4.20 | 1.15 |
| UK Growth ‡@ | 628.10 | ... | -4.40 | 2.04 |
| UK Income ‡@ | 205.60 | ... | -1.30 | 5.09 |

### CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
**0870 606 6402**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beacon Inv ‡ | 84.88 | ... | +0.35 | 0.01 |

**Dealing: 020 7426 6232**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Winchester ‡ | 3568.89 | ... | +15.84 | 1.02 |

### EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
**0800 358 3010**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Resp & Sust Sterling Bond ‡ | 84.42 | ... | -0.19 | 4.13 |
| Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡ | 326.30 | ... | -1.70 | 1.91 |
| Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡ | 333.30 | ... | -0.50 | 0.53 |
| Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡ | 123.00 | ... | -0.50 | 4.87 |
| Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡ | 223.50 | ... | -0.90 | 1.53 |
| Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡ | 274.90 | ... | -0.60 | 1.16 |

### F & C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICS)
**Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083**
**Share Class 1 - Retail**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corporate Bd ‡@ | 49.99 | ... | -0.31 | 1.57 |
| Emerging Mkts ‡@ | 116.50 | ... | -0.50 | ... |
| Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@ | 1277.00 | ... | ... | ... |
| Extra Inc Bond ‡@ | 43.58 | ... | -0.07 | 1.88 |
| FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@ | 429.50 | ... | -2.30 | 2.90 |
| Global Gwth SC1 ‡@ | 303.90 | ... | -0.90 | ... |
| High Inc Trst @ | 10.97 | 11.56 | -0.01 | 5.52 |
| Max Inc Bond ‡@ | 42.86 | ... | -0.06 | 3.39 |
| Multi Man Caut ‡@ | 70.41 | ... | ... | 3.18 |
| Multi Man Distr ‡@ | 60.44 | ... | ... | 3.37 |
| North Amer ‡@ | 815.90 | ... | -0.10 | ... |
| Pacific Gwth ‡@ | 469.40 | ... | -0.90 | ... |
| Strategic Bd ‡@ | 195.30 | ... | -0.30 | 1.46 |
| UK Equity ‡@ | 3446.00 | ... | +2.00 | 1.27 |
| UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@ | 658.50 | ... | ... | ... |
| UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@ | 234.70 | ... | ... | ... |
| UK Smaller Cos ‡@ | 1027.00 | ... | -2.00 | ... |

### FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
**Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amer Spec Sits ‡@ | 2150.00 | ... | -11.00 | ... |
| American ‡@ | 5300.00 | ... | +28.00 | ... |
| Euro Opps ‡@ | 600.80 | ... | -2.10 | 0.31 |
| European ‡@ | 3560.00 | ... | -15.00 | ... |
| Extra Income ‡@ | 22.24 | ... | -0.04 | 5.55 |
| Glob Spec Sits ‡@ | 5488.00 | ... | +6.00 | ... |
| Global Focus ‡@ | 2920.00 | ... | -7.00 | ... |
| International ‡@ | 149.50 | ... | +0.20 | 0.08 |
| Japan ‡@ | 573.10 | ... | +5.30 | ... |
| Moneybldr Bal ‡@ | 43.64 | ... | -0.22 | 3.86 |
| Moneybldr Glob | 327.60 | 327.60 | -0.10 | 0.21 |
| Moneybldr Gwth ‡@ | 76.12 | ... | -0.95 | 2.97 |
| Moneybldr Inc ‡@ | 29.03 | ... | -0.07 | ... |
| Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@ | 131.35 | ... | -0.83 | 3.14 |
| Special Sits ‡@ | 4503.00 | ... | -4.00 | 2.56 |
| Wealthbuilder | 69.75 | 72.18 | +0.53 | 0.44 |

### HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
**01296 386 386**
**Authorised Inv Funds**
**Share Class `C**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corporate Bond ‡@ | 32.37 | ... | -0.09 | ... |
| Ethical ‡@ | 111.10 | ... | -0.20 | 0.01 |
| European ‡@ | 114.60 | ... | -0.30 | 1.91 |
| Far Eastern ‡ | 111.90 | ... | ... | ... |
| Fund of Inv Tst ‡@ | 134.30 | ... | -0.20 | 0.43 |
| Intl Gwth ‡ | 125.70 | ... | -0.10 | 1.44 |
| Japanese ‡ | 71.64 | ... | +0.07 | ... |
| North Amer ‡ | 148.50 | ... | +0.20 | ... |
| Smaller Cos ‡@ | 104.20 | ... | -0.30 | 1.17 |
| Special Sits ‡@ | 51.31 | ... | -0.14 | ... |
| UK Equity Inc ‡@ | 92.62 | ... | -0.49 | 3.75 |
| UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@ | 71.90 | ... | -0.34 | ... |
| UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@ | 80.71 | ... | -0.38 | ... |
| UK Growth ‡@ | 83.75 | ... | -0.47 | ... |

### HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
**Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6**
**HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amer Ind Acc ‡@ | 914.66 | ... | +0.41 | ... |
| Amer Ind Inc ‡@ | 724.91 | ... | +0.33 | ... |
| Euro Ind Acc ‡@ | 1230.23 | ... | -3.87 | 2.13 |
| Euro Ind Inc ‡@ | 765.74 | ... | -2.41 | 2.20 |
| FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@ | 283.80 | ... | -1.48 | 2.99 |
| FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@ | 126.73 | ... | -0.66 | 3.06 |
| FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@ | 289.02 | ... | -0.87 | 2.25 |
| FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@ | 172.33 | ... | -0.52 | 2.25 |
| FTSE All-S Acc ‡@ | 719.17 | ... | -3.66 | 3.02 |
| FTSE All-S Inc ‡@ | 357.33 | ... | -1.81 | 3.09 |
| Jap Ind Acc ‡@ | 146.57 | ... | +0.23 | 1.93 |
| Jap Ind Inc ‡@ | 112.05 | ... | +0.17 | 2.25 |
| Pac Ind Acc ‡@ | 494.43 | ... | +5.13 | ... |
| Pac Ind Inc ‡@ | 300.32 | ... | +3.11 | ... |

**HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Balanced Acc ‡@ | 242.45 | ... | -0.43 | 0.92 |
| Balanced Inc ‡@ | 151.95 | ... | -0.14 | ... |
| Corp Bd Acc ‡@ | 265.77 | ... | -0.74 | ... |
| Corp Bd Inc ‡@ | 102.18 | ... | -0.29 | ... |
| Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@ | 497.78 | ... | +1.62 | ... |
| Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@ | 74.17 | ... | +0.24 | ... |
| Income Acc ‡@ | 725.31 | ... | -3.79 | 4.09 |
| Income Inc ‡@ | 297.59 | ... | -1.55 | 4.22 |
| Monthly Inc Acc ‡@ | 313.41 | ... | +0.77 | 3.21 |
| Monthly Inc Inc ‡@ | 128.87 | ... | -0.55 | 3.90 |
| UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@ | 148.30 | ... | -0.77 | 4.01 |
| UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@ | 65.46 | ... | -0.34 | 4.13 |
| UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@ | 148.30 | ... | -0.77 | 4.01 |
| UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@ | 65.46 | ... | -0.34 | 4.13 |

**HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| American Index Retail Acc ‡@ | 914.66 | ... | +0.41 | ... |
| American Index Retail Inc ‡@ | 724.91 | ... | +0.33 | ... |
| Asian Gth Acc ‡@ | 147.77 | ... | -0.07 | ... |
| Asian Gth Inc ‡@ | 130.99 | ... | -0.06 | ... |
| Chinese Eq Acc ‡@ | 513.81 | ... | +0.27 | ... |
| Chinese Eq Inc ‡@ | 434.76 | ... | +0.22 | ... |
| Euro Gth Acc ‡@ | 973.97 | ... | +4.05 | 0.41 |
| Euro Gth Inc ‡@ | 817.05 | ... | +3.39 | 0.44 |

### IGNIS ASSET MGMT
**Dlg: 0141 222 8282**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| American Gth Inc @ | 322.55 | 340.42 | -3.34 | ... |
| Balanced Growth @ | 262.17 | 276.69 | -0.93 | 1.52 |
| Balanced Growth Acc @ | 393.13 | 414.92 | -1.40 | 1.49 |
| Corporate Bond ‡@ | 99.69 | ... | -0.89 | 4.77 |
| European Growth @ | 403.88 | 426.26 | -3.57 | 2.18 |
| European Growth Acc @ | 475.71 | 502.07 | -4.21 | 2.24 |
| Glob Gwth @ | 331.53 | 349.90 | -3.09 | ... |
| Higher Yield @ | 83.98 | 88.64 | -0.29 | 4.43 |
| Higher Yield Acc @ | 275.04 | 290.28 | -0.92 | 4.32 |
| Japan @ | 49.06 | 51.78 | -0.03 | ... |
| Managed @ | 130.89 | 138.15 | -0.06 | 0.66 |
| Managed Trust @ | 71.96 | 76.96 | +0.17 | ... |
| Mngd Pfolio Inc @ | 95.54 | 100.84 | -0.11 | 0.58 |
| Pacific Grth @ | 498.71 | 526.34 | -2.81 | 1.34 |
| Smaller Comp @ | 756.24 | 798.14 | +1.64 | 0.15 |
| Smaller Cos @ | 628.94 | 663.79 | +1.36 | 0.21 |

### INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
**Client Servs: 0207 163 4000**
**Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@ | 96.05 | ... | -0.32 | ... |
| Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@ | 93.79 | ... | -0.36 | ... |

### INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
**Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677**
**Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121**
**INVESCO Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@ | 323.57 | ... | -0.12 | 7.05 |

**INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Childrens Acc ‡@ | 473.67 | ... | -3.44 | 2.27 |
| Corp Bond Acc ‡@ | 199.32 | ... | -0.54 | ... |
| High Income Inc ‡@ | 318.52 | ... | -2.74 | 3.93 |
| Income & Grth Inc ‡@ | 421.96 | ... | -3.35 | 3.03 |
| Income Inc ‡@ | 1250.65 | ... | -11.32 | 3.49 |
| Money Acc ‡@ | 93.08 | ... | +0.01 | 1.65 |
| Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@ | 90.87 | ... | -0.13 | 6.18 |
| UK Aggressive Inc ‡@ | 154.28 | ... | -0.24 | ... |
| UK Growth Acc ‡@ | 919.85 | ... | -4.70 | 1.62 |
| UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@ | 1340.30 | ... | -3.00 | ... |
| UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@ | 82.54 | ... | +0.04 | ... |

### INVESTEC FUND MGRS
**Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900**
**OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| American A Acc ‡@ | 679.77 | ... | +2.10 | ... |
| Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@ | 734.34 | ... | -0.57 | ... |
| Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@ | 231.48 | ... | -3.81 | ... |
| Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@ | 376.09 | ... | -1.69 | 1.91 |
| Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@ | 235.65 | ... | -1.05 | 1.90 |
| Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@ | 128.82 | ... | -0.90 | 0.60 |
| Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@ | 136.42 | ... | -0.95 | ... |
| Diversified Income A Acc ‡@ | 322.79 | ... | -0.89 | 2.82 |
| Diversified Income A Inc ‡@ | 68.10 | ... | -0.19 | 4.24 |
| Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@ | 113.10 | ... | -0.32 | 4.84 |
| Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@ | 125.82 | ... | +0.20 | ... |
| Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@ | 64.66 | ... | -0.19 | 6.70 |
| Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@ | 143.80 | ... | -0.16 | 0.96 |
| Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@ | 184.13 | ... | -0.53 | 5.02 |
| Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@ | 71.35 | ... | -0.20 | 5.26 |
| Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@ | 220.49 | ... | -0.05 | ... |
| Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@ | 134.24 | ... | -1.25 | ... |
| Global Bond A Acc ‡@ | 139.30 | ... | +4.03 | ... |
| Global Bond A Inc ‡@ | 109.33 | ... | +3.00 | ... |
| Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@ | 1167.00 | ... | +29.78 | ... |
| Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@ | 193.61 | ... | +1.95 | 0.47 |
| Global Energy A Acc ‡@ | 170.97 | ... | -1.14 | ... |
| Global Equity A Acc ‡@ | 230.84 | ... | -0.25 | 0.13 |
| Global Franchise A Acc ‡@ | 305.22 | ... | +0.22 | ... |
| Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@ | 1233.76 | ... | +1.79 | 0.38 |
| Global Gold A Acc ‡@ | 205.12 | ... | -4.05 | 0.80 |
| Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@ | 314.00 | ... | -0.58 | ... |
| Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@ | 242.88 | ... | -0.45 | ... |
| Managed Growth A Acc ‡@ | 282.51 | ... | -2.95 | ... |
| Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@ | 243.45 | ... | +0.43 | 3.54 |
| Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@ | 63.17 | ... | +0.01 | 5.01 |
| Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@ | 167.05 | ... | -0.22 | ... |
| Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@ | 244.54 | ... | +0.19 | ... |
| Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@ | 119.47 | ... | +0.09 | ... |
| Target Return A Acc ‡@ | 102.03 | ... | +0.44 | 0.82 |
| Target Return A Inc ‡@ | 87.63 | ... | +0.01 | 0.87 |
| UK Alpha A Acc ‡@ | 2704.96 | ... | -13.07 | 1.95 |
| UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@ | 770.11 | ... | +3.15 | ... |
| UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@ | 4646.43 | ... | -7.11 | ... |
| UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@ | 4167.56 | ... | -6.38 | ... |
| UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@ | 1407.38 | ... | -9.36 | 1.54 |
| UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@ | 504.50 | ... | -3.36 | 1.57 |

**For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)**

### JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS
**Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@ | 113.20 | ... | -0.30 | 2.12 |
| Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@ | 75.76 | ... | -0.20 | 6.03 |
| Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@ | 288.30 | ... | -1.10 | ... |
| Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@ | 140.90 | ... | -0.60 | ... |
| China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@ | 1093.00 | ... | -12.00 | 0.28 |
| Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@ | 188.40 | ... | +0.10 | 0.76 |
| Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@ | 302.90 | ... | -1.50 | 1.15 |
| Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@ | 2311.00 | ... | -6.00 | 1.15 |
| Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@ | 28.64 | ... | -0.12 | 4.79 |
| Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@ | 4183.00 | ... | -12.00 | ... |
| Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@ | 67.11 | ... | -0.16 | 3.28 |
| Global Tech A Acc ‡@ | 2992.00 | ... | +22.00 | ... |
| Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@ | 116.53 | ... | -0.56 | 2.87 |
| M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@ | 165.00 | ... | -0.10 | 0.81 |
| M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@ | 256.10 | ... | -0.40 | ... |
| M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@ | 147.20 | ... | ... | 2.71 |
| M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@ | 189.20 | ... | ... | ... |
| Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@ | 203.80 | ... | -0.60 | 1.82 |
| Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@ | 55.33 | ... | -0.17 | 1.84 |
| Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@ | 103.40 | ... | -0.50 | 3.26 |
| UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@ | 170.10 | ... | +0.20 | ... |
| UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@ | 139.50 | ... | -0.80 | 1.12 |




| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@ | 742.50 | ... | -1.70 | ... |
| UK Property A Acc @ | 264.95 | 278.15 | +0.01 | 2.63 |
| UK Property A Inc @ | 105.80 | 111.07 | ... | 2.68 |
| US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@ | 1719.00 | ... | ... | ... |

### JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT
**OEIC**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Asia A Acc ‡@ | 259.00 | ... | +2.20 | ... |
| Emerging Mkts ‡@ | 261.50 | ... | +3.00 | ... |
| Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@ | 270.30 | ... | +4.70 | 0.47 |
| Euro Smllr Cos ‡@ | 864.00 | ... | +17.40 | ... |
| Europe A Acc ‡@ | 1734.00 | ... | +35.00 | 1.35 |
| Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@ | 117.30 | ... | +1.10 | 5.30 |
| Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@ | 30.89 | ... | +0.29 | 5.45 |
| Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@ | 257.40 | ... | -0.70 | 0.07 |
| Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@ | 196.80 | ... | -0.50 | 0.08 |
| Glb Fins A Acc ‡@ | 1077.00 | ... | +1.00 | ... |
| Global A Acc ‡@ | 2049.00 | ... | +11.00 | ... |
| Japan A Acc ‡@ | 516.80 | ... | +6.20 | ... |
| Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@ | 1268.00 | ... | +16.00 | 0.57 |
| Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@ | 1127.00 | ... | +15.00 | 0.58 |
| Nat Resources ‡@ | 951.20 | ... | +17.30 | ... |
| New Europe A ‡@ | 155.70 | ... | +12.00 | 2.11 |
| Portfolio ‡@ | 295.60 | ... | +0.40 | 0.98 |
| Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@ | 85.59 | ... | -0.13 | ... |
| Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@ | 48.30 | ... | -0.08 | ... |
| UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@ | 199.00 | ... | -2.20 | ... |
| UK Dynamic Acc ‡@ | 206.70 | ... | +4.30 | ... |
| UK Dynamic Inc ‡@ | 148.20 | ... | +3.10 | ... |
| UK Equity A Acc ‡@ | 401.90 | ... | +0.60 | 3.45 |
| UK Equity A Inc ‡@ | 46.44 | ... | +0.07 | 3.49 |
| UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@ | 167.10 | ... | -0.20 | 3.41 |
| UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@ | 90.29 | ... | -0.48 | 3.50 |
| UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@ | 1132.00 | ... | +7.00 | ... |
| UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡@ | 531.30 | ... | +2.00 | ... |
| UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@ | 563.30 | ... | +7.00 | ... |
| UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@ | 197.90 | ... | +3.50 | ... |
| UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@ | 100.50 | ... | +1.77 | ... |
| US A Acc ‡@ | 1036.00 | ... | +25.00 | ... |

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@ | 976.20 | ... | +14.00 | ... |

### JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
**020 7581 3020**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Absolute Return ‡@ | 32.05 | ... | -0.11 | 0.11 |
| Distribution and Growth ‡@ | 96.52 | ... | -0.33 | ... |
| Emg Euro Opps ‡@ | 145.34 | ... | -31.23 | ... |
| Euro Special Sits ‡@ | 464.18 | ... | -3.23 | ... |
| European ‡@ | 2965.37 | ... | -21.03 | ... |
| Financial Opps ‡@ | 688.51 | ... | -3.14 | 0.20 |
| Income Trust ‡@ | 507.55 | ... | -3.05 | 3.92 |
| Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@ | 232.59 | ... | +0.67 | 2.05 |
| Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@ | 539.57 | ... | -3.22 | ... |
| Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@ | 343.35 | ... | -1.37 | 2.86 |
| Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@ | 378.51 | ... | -1.90 | ... |
| UK Growth ‡@ | 262.83 | ... | -0.74 | 0.67 |
| UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@ | 207.76 | ... | -1.36 | 2.15 |

### LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
**Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Equity Acc @ | 2616.00 | 2639.00 | -8.00 | 2.12 |
| Equity Dist @ | 893.80 | 902.00 | -2.70 | 2.15 |
| Euro Ind Acc ‡@ | 542.50 | ... | -1.50 | 2.11 |
| Euro Ind Inc ‡@ | 355.40 | ... | -1.00 | 2.16 |
| Fixed Int Acc ‡@ | 130.50 | ... | -0.40 | 2.35 |
| Fixed Int Dist ‡@ | 60.88 | ... | -0.18 | 2.38 |
| Glob Gwth Acc @ | 243.90 | 243.90 | -1.30 | 1.15 |
| Glob Health Acc ‡@ | 108.90 | ... | -0.50 | ... |
| Glob Tech Acc ‡@ | 95.56 | ... | +1.13 | ... |
| Gwth Tst Acc @ | 106.00 | 106.50 | -1.00 | 0.17 |
| High Inc Acc ‡@ | 122.30 | ... | -0.60 | ... |
| Japan Ind Acc ‡@ | 71.52 | ... | +0.09 | 1.75 |
| Pacific Ind Acc ‡@ | 198.10 | ... | +1.20 | ... |
| UK 100 Ind Acc @ | 180.90 | 180.90 | +0.90 | 3.19 |
| UK Active Opps Acc @ | 249.90 | 252.90 | -0.10 | ... |
| UK Index Acc ‡@ | 352.50 | ... | -1.70 | 3.11 |
| UK Index Dist ‡@ | 167.40 | ... | -0.90 | 3.19 |
| US Ind Acc ‡@ | 799.00 | ... | +1.60 | ... |
| Worldwide Acc ‡@ | 336.80 | ... | -0.70 | 0.73 |

### M & G SECURITIES
**Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196**
**Authorised Inv Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Charifund Inc ‡ | 1470.97 | ... | +2.01 | 5.51 |

**Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡ | 525.29 | ... | -3.39 | ... |
| Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡ | 462.50 | ... | -3.00 | ... |

**Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Extra Income Inc ‡ | 701.81 | ... | +0.40 | 5.01 |
| Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡ | 75.40 | ... | +0.13 | 2.59 |
| Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡ | 39.18 | ... | -0.03 | 5.66 |
| Index Linked Bd Inc ‡ | 113.95 | ... | -0.28 | ... |
| Index Trckr Inc ‡ | 78.18 | ... | +0.02 | 3.63 |
| Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡ | 25.00 | ... | +0.01 | 2.80 |
| UK Select A Inc ‡ | 2819.63 | ... | -0.61 | 2.27 |

**Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corp Bd A Inc ‡ | 33.48 | ... | +0.07 | ... |
| Dividend Inc ‡ | 53.07 | ... | +0.04 | 5.79 |
| Recovery A Inc ‡ | 109.29 | ... | ... | 3.50 |
| Sml Cos Inc ‡ | 330.83 | ... | -1.60 | 2.41 |

**Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@ | 138.14 | ... | +0.14 | ... |

### MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
**0808 005 5555**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| High Income | 85.36 | 85.36 | -0.16 | 4.19 |
| High Income Acc | 241.50 | 241.50 | -0.50 | 4.08 |
| UK 100 Comp Acc @ | 466.70 | 466.70 | -1.60 | 2.87 |
| UK 100 Cos @ | 229.30 | 229.30 | -0.80 | 2.94 |
| UK Select Pflo @ | 345.10 | 345.10 | -1.50 | 3.17 |
| UK Selection Port Acc @ | 714.10 | 714.10 | -3.20 | 1.49 |
| Worldwide Mgd Acc @ | 940.20 | 940.20 | -0.90 | 1.30 |
| Wwide Mgd @ | 549.90 | 549.90 | -0.60 | 1.31 |

### MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
**Enquires: 0800 0961 962**
**The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)**
**Class A Shares**
**Equity**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@ | 763.95 | ... | -2.62 | ... |
| Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@ | 759.68 | ... | -2.61 | ... |
| Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@ | 925.00 | ... | -2.46 | ... |
| Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@ | 845.97 | ... | -2.25 | ... |
| Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@ | 923.50 | ... | -2.46 | ... |
| Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@ | 844.44 | ... | -2.25 | ... |
| Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@ | 932.73 | ... | -2.34 | ... |
| Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@ | 913.06 | ... | -2.29 | ... |
| Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@ | 931.44 | ... | -2.34 | ... |
| Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@ | 912.85 | ... | -2.29 | ... |
| Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@ | 1326.32 | ... | +3.61 | ... |
| Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@ | 1847.86 | ... | +5.02 | ... |
| Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@ | 1418.28 | ... | +3.85 | ... |
| Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@ | 1596.30 | ... | -4.37 | 0.70 |
| Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@ | 13794.04 | ... | +31.78 | ... |
| Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@ | 1523.15 | ... | -4.18 | 0.70 |
| Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@ | 3776.26 | ... | +8.70 | ... |
| Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@ | 538.21 | ... | -4.34 | ... |
| Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@ | 538.20 | ... | -4.35 | ... |
| Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@ | 535.47 | ... | -4.33 | ... |
| Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@ | 535.47 | ... | -4.33 | ... |
| Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@ | 1171.23 | ... | -0.21 | 0.62 |
| Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@ | 1249.45 | ... | +6.17 | 0.62 |
| Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@ | 1266.66 | ... | +6.25 | 0.47 |
| Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@ | 1169.36 | ... | -0.34 | 0.47 |
| Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@ | 1273.83 | ... | +6.29 | 0.62 |
| Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@ | 120.13 | ... | -0.31 | ... |
| Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@ | 93.96 | ... | -0.24 | ... |
| Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@ | 2553.90 | ... | -6.65 | ... |
| Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@ | 1332.94 | ... | -3.48 | ... |
| Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@ | 934.88 | ... | -2.48 | ... |
| Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@ | 889.59 | ... | -2.36 | ... |
| Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@ | 930.36 | ... | -2.47 | ... |
| Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@ | 889.31 | ... | -2.36 | ... |
| US Adv F F Acc ‡@ | 1469.57 | ... | +2.41 | ... |
| US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@ | 834.27 | ... | -3.82 | ... |
| US Adv F I Acc ‡@ | 1562.42 | ... | +2.55 | ... |
| US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@ | 873.86 | ... | -4.02 | ... |

### SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
**08457 413002**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@ | 110.50 | ... | +0.40 | 2.41 |
| Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@ | 233.20 | ... | +0.10 | 1.18 |
| Equity Inc Inc ‡@ | 200.90 | ... | ... | 5.12 |
| N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@ | 182.80 | ... | +0.10 | 3.09 |
| Stkmkt 100 Tkr @ | 269.10 | 269.10 | +0.70 | 3.11 |
| UK Growth Acc ‡@ | 460.60 | ... | -0.10 | 3.18 |
| UK Growth Inc ‡@ | 242.60 | ... | ... | 3.26 |

### SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
**0141 248 6100**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| European Inc | 1777.00 | 1873.48 | +4.40 | 0.78 |
| Far Eastern Inc | 584.69 | 617.09 | -0.73 | ... |
| Intl Growth Inc | 380.56 | 400.59 | +0.02 | 0.75 |
| Japanese Inc | 41.85 | 41.85 | +0.43 | ... |
| Mutual European | 2762.93 | 2908.99 | -21.63 | 1.11 |
| Mutual Far Eastern | 897.00 | 946.70 | -0.07 | ... |
| Mutual North Am | 1983.00 | 2092.88 | +6.23 | 0.24 |
| Mutual UK Eq | 1419.40 | 1428.80 | -10.35 | 2.59 |
| Nth American Inc | 1227.65 | 1295.67 | -7.28 | ... |
| UK Equity Inc | 562.23 | 593.38 | +1.31 | 1.56 |

### SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
**0845 300 2244**
**Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)**
**OEIC A Class**
**Managed Investment Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bal Port A Acc ‡@ | 237.60 | ... | +0.80 | 0.01 |
| Caut Port A Acc ‡@ | 207.10 | ... | +0.30 | 0.43 |
| Caut Port A Inc ‡@ | 152.00 | ... | +0.30 | 0.60 |
| Opps Port A Acc ‡@ | 280.20 | ... | +1.30 | ... |
| Prog Port A Acc ‡@ | 266.60 | ... | +1.10 | ... |

**Overseas Growth Investment Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@ | 3596.00 | ... | -10.00 | 2.03 |

**Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK Trkr A Acc ‡@ | 394.80 | ... | -1.40 | 2.91 |
| UK Trkr A Inc ‡@ | 195.50 | ... | -0.70 | 2.98 |

**UK and Income Investment Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corp Bond A Acc ‡@ | 282.40 | ... | -0.50 | 2.49 |
| Corp Bond A Inc ‡@ | 104.00 | ... | -0.20 | 2.52 |
| Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@ | 393.00 | ... | -0.70 | 1.73 |
| Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@ | 230.70 | ... | -0.20 | ... |
| Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@ | 67.62 | ... | -0.08 | ... |
| Hi Res A Acc ‡@ | 385.60 | ... | -1.50 | 3.66 |
| Hi Res A Inc ‡@ | 119.60 | ... | -0.50 | 3.74 |
| Safety Plus A Acc ‡@ | 40.49 | ... | ... | ... |
| Strat Inc A Acc ‡@ | 186.90 | ... | -0.20 | 3.54 |
| Strat Inc A Inc ‡@ | 81.40 | ... | -0.07 | 3.61 |
| UK Gwth A Acc ‡@ | 199.80 | ... | -1.20 | ... |
| UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@ | 2396.00 | ... | +2.00 | ... |

**OEIC B Class**
**Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK Trkr B Acc ‡@ | 435.90 | ... | -1.60 | 3.00 |
| UK Trkr B Inc ‡@ | 194.40 | ... | -0.70 | 3.08 |

**UK and Income Investment Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corp Bond B Acc ‡@ | 370.70 | ... | +0.90 | 1.39 |
| Corp Bond B Inc ‡@ | 136.30 | ... | +0.30 | 1.40 |
| UK Gwth B Acc ‡@ | 205.60 | ... | -0.30 | 1.79 |
| UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@ | 2481.00 | ... | ... | 1.09 |

**OEIC C Class**
**UK and Income Investment Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK Gth C Inc ‡@ | 128.90 | ... | -0.80 | 3.27 |
| UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@ | 2598.00 | ... | ... | 1.29 |

### STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
**0845 279 3003**
**Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@ | 88.76 | ... | -0.15 | 1.38 |
| AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@ | 49.78 | ... | -0.08 | 1.39 |
| AAA Income Acc ‡@ | 96.75 | ... | -0.16 | 1.79 |
| Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@ | 201.70 | ... | +0.30 | ... |
| Corp Bond Acc ‡@ | 155.10 | ... | -0.50 | 3.24 |
| Corp Bond Inc ‡@ | 51.50 | ... | -0.15 | 3.31 |
| Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@ | 262.10 | ... | +3.90 | ... |
| Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@ | 148.60 | ... | -0.10 | 1.38 |
| Glob Advtg Acc ‡@ | 196.20 | ... | -0.20 | 1.35 |
| Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@ | 159.40 | ... | -0.30 | ... |
| Higher Inc Acc ‡@ | 145.10 | ... | -0.10 | 4.40 |
| Higher Inc Inc ‡@ | 44.74 | ... | -0.03 | 4.53 |
| Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@ | 127.40 | ... | ... | ... |
| Managed Acc ‡@ | 366.00 | ... | -0.50 | 0.69 |
| Select Inc Acc ‡@ | 91.51 | ... | ... | ... |
| Select Inc Inc ‡@ | 51.26 | ... | -0.26 | ... |
| UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@ | 372.70 | ... | +1.70 | ... |
| UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@ | 230.00 | ... | +1.00 | ... |
| UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@ | 270.00 | ... | -1.30 | 4.49 |
| UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@ | 73.06 | ... | -0.37 | 4.65 |
| UK Ethical Acc ‡@ | 204.10 | ... | -1.30 | 2.22 |
| UK Opps Acc ‡@ | 234.40 | ... | ... | ... |
| UK Opps Inc ‡@ | 211.70 | ... | ... | ... |
| UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@ | 752.70 | ... | -1.00 | 0.66 |

### SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
**Enquiries:0141 222 1151**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Balanced A Acc ‡@ | 133.80 | ... | -0.17 | 1.25 |
| Balanced A Inc ‡@ | 118.96 | ... | -0.14 | 1.26 |
| Cautious A Acc ‡@ | 111.51 | ... | -0.29 | 1.81 |
| Cautious A Inc ‡@ | 95.99 | ... | -0.26 | 1.83 |
| Dynamic A Acc ‡@ | 326.09 | ... | -0.15 | 0.91 |
| Dynamic A Inc ‡@ | 292.58 | ... | -0.14 | 0.91 |
| Growth A Acc ‡@ | 335.92 | ... | -0.32 | 1.09 |
| Income A Acc ‡@ | 245.82 | ... | -0.45 | ... |
| Sterling Bond Acc ‡@ | 242.37 | ... | -0.28 | 3.52 |
| Sterling Bond Inc ‡@ | 97.00 | ... | -0.11 | 3.61 |

### THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
**Client Serv: 0800 0683000**
**Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000**
**Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@ | 129.92 | ... | -0.44 | 1.50 |

**Retail Shares (Class 1)**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@ | 36.32 | ... | -0.01 | ... |
| Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@ | 79.40 | ... | -0.38 | 3.55 |
| Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@ | 53.37 | ... | -0.16 | 2.57 |
| Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@ | 53.27 | ... | -0.16 | 2.23 |
| Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@ | 43.53 | ... | -0.17 | 2.46 |
| Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@ | 40.53 | ... | -0.08 | 3.65 |
| Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@ | 101.11 | ... | -0.62 | 3.40 |
| Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@ | 93.84 | ... | -0.37 | 2.72 |
| Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@ | 185.36 | ... | -0.68 | 1.83 |
| Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@ | 69.36 | ... | -0.44 | 4.12 |
| Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@ | 139.01 | ... | -0.88 | 1.43 |
| Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@ | 355.40 | ... | -0.45 | ... |

**For Resolution see Ignis**

### TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| British | 955.00 | 955.00 | -8.60 | ... |
| European | 210.70 | 219.40 | +1.00 | ... |

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

# British funds

### Index-linked

| 12 month High | Low | Stock | Price (£) | +/– | Int Yld % | Grs rd yld |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 389.95 | 359.04 | Tr IL 2½% 24 * | 375.61 | – .12 | 1.44 | 1.29 |
| 110.73 | 99.31 | Tr IL 0⅛% 24 | 99.50 | – .05 | ... | 0.72 |
| 115.41 | 96.90 | Tr IL 0⅛% 26 | 99.06 | + ... | ... | 0.46 |
| 126.92 | 99.85 | Tr IL 1¼% 27 | 104.48 | + .03 | 1.31 | 0.25 |
| 121.63 | 93.33 | Tr IL 0⅛% 28 | 99.35 | + .07 | ... | 0.25 |
| 122.63 | 92.36 | Tr IL 0⅛% 29 | 99.07 | + .12 | ... | 0.29 |
| 383.49 | 301.39 | Tr IL 4⅛% 30 * | 339.67 | + .89 | 1.90 | 0.33 |
| 129.14 | 90.61 | Tr IL 0⅛% 31 | 99.75 | + .29 | ... | 0.16 |
| 145.25 | 99.08 | Tr IL 1¼% 32 | 109.48 | + .30 | 1.14 | 0.24 |
| 141.71 | 92.56 | Tr IL 0¾% 34 | 103.67 | + .30 | ... | 0.40 |
| 295.96 | 206.76 | Tr IL 2% 35 * | 243.04 | + .67 | 1.00 | 0.53 |
| 138.93 | 82.01 | Tr IL 0⅛% 36 | 94.66 | + .22 | ... | 0.54 |
| 159.46 | 94.08 | Tr IL 1⅛% 37 | 107.34 | + .24 | 1.10 | 0.60 |
| 141.64 | 78.25 | Tr IL 0⅛% 39 | 91.30 | + .16 | ... | 0.71 |
| 154.30 | 84.60 | Tr IL 0⅝% 40 | 98.33 | + .16 | ... | 0.73 |
| 146.95 | 75.20 | Tr IL 0⅛% 41 | 89.22 | + .12 | ... | 0.76 |
| 161.50 | 82.66 | Tr IL 0⅝% 42 | 97.02 | + .09 | 0.64 | 0.79 |
| 149.71 | 72.26 | Tr IL 0⅛% 44 | 85.82 | + .07 | ... | 0.87 |
| 152.75 | 70.25 | Tr IL 0⅛% 46 | 83.69 | + .02 | ... | 0.92 |
| 176.18 | 80.78 | Tr IL 0¾% 47 | 96.13 | + .04 | 0.80 | 0.93 |
| 157.13 | 66.79 | Tr IL 0⅛% 48 | 81.92 | + .01 | ... | 0.93 |
| 173.66 | 72.64 | Tr IL 0½% 50 | 89.95 | + .01 | ... | 0.92 |
| 168.47 | 65.69 | Tr IL 0¼% 52 | 83.53 | – .02 | ... | 0.90 |
| 220.57 | 88.77 | Tr IL 1¼% 55 | 110.75 | – .04 | 1.24 | 0.87 |
| 172.27 | 60.50 | Tr IL 0⅛% 56 | 78.89 | – .02 | ... | 0.85 |
| 175.27 | 60.14 | Tr IL 0⅛% 58 | 78.23 | – .07 | ... | 0.85 |
| 197.29 | 64.93 | Tr IL 0⅜% 62 | 85.62 | – .09 | ... | 0.81 |
| 196.32 | 55.87 | Tr IL 0⅛% 65 | 77.41 | – .08 | ... | 0.75 |
| 206.92 | 54.65 | Tr IL 0⅛% 68 | 77.08 | – .10 | ... | 0.72 |
| 232.59 | 55.40 | Tr IL 0⅛% 73 | 81.11 | – .12 | ... | 0.56 |

### Longs (Over 15 years)

| 12 month High | Low | Stock | Price (£) | +/– | Int Yld % | Grs rd yld |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 161.83 | 63.35 | Tr 0⅛% 51 | 80.60 | + ... | ... | 0.92 |
| 81.92 | 44.40 | Tr 1¼% 51 | 51.33 | – .04 | ... | 4.22 |
| 137.68 | 82.51 | Tr 3¾% 52 | 91.83 | – .06 | ... | 4.24 |
| 87.66 | 46.78 | Tr 1½% 53 | 53.88 | – .04 | ... | 4.21 |
| 90.38 | 48.25 | Tr 1⅝% 54 | 55.32 | – .04 | ... | 4.20 |
| 154.41 | 90.79 | Tr 4¼% 55 | 100.70 | – .08 | 4.22 | 4.21 |
| 94.17 | 49.39 | Tr 1¾% 57 | 56.55 | – .06 | ... | 4.14 |
| 154.62 | 87.32 | Tr 4% 60 | 97.24 | – .09 | ... | 4.15 |
| 61.14 | 26.21 | Tr 0½% 61 | 31.74 | – .05 | ... | 3.99 |
| 117.68 | 60.88 | Tr 2½% 65 | 68.30 | – .06 | ... | 4.08 |
| 149.26 | 79.01 | Tr 3½% 68 | 87.98 | – .09 | ... | 4.08 |
| 93.21 | 42.99 | Tr 1⅝% 71 | 49.84 | – .07 | ... | 3.96 |
| 77.68 | 32.96 | Tr 1⅛% 73 | 39.28 | – .08 | ... | 3.87 |
| 103.74 | 91.41 | Tr 3¾% 53 | 91.41 | – .05 | ... | 4.26 |
| 137.28 | 98.36 | Tr 4¾% 38 | 107.42 | – .10 | 4.42 | 4.10 |
| 86.04 | 58.05 | Tr 1⅛% 39 | 65.30 | – .07 | ... | 4.16 |
| 131.04 | 92.08 | Tr 4¼% 39 | 101.08 | – .09 | 4.20 | 4.16 |
| 132.52 | 91.30 | Tr 4¼% 40 | 100.77 | – .08 | ... | 4.19 |
| 86.08 | 54.72 | Tr 1¼% 41 | 62.54 | – .07 | ... | 4.19 |
| 119.22 | 76.78 | Tr 3¼% 44 | 86.27 | – .05 | ... | 4.25 |
| 139.42 | 93.79 | Tr 4½% 42 | 103.86 | – .10 | 4.33 | 4.21 |
| 124.31 | 79.61 | Tr 3½% 45 | 89.18 | – .06 | ... | 4.27 |
| 140.41 | 89.35 | Tr 4¼% 46 | 99.63 | – .06 | 4.27 | 4.27 |
| 76.89 | 43.93 | Tr 0⅞% 46 | 51.17 | – .03 | ... | 4.25 |
| 88.03 | 51.06 | Tr 1½% 47 | 58.62 | – .05 | ... | 4.26 |
| 92.94 | 53.78 | Tr 1¾% 49 | 61.22 | – .04 | ... | 4.24 |
| 144.61 | 89.75 | Tr 4¼% 49 | 99.73 | – .07 | 4.26 | 4.27 |
| 69.30 | 35.82 | Tr 0⅝% 50 | 42.18 | – .03 | ... | 4.19 |

### Mediums (5-15 years)

| 12 month High | Low | Stock | Price (£) | +/– | Int Yld % | Grs rd yld |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 103.82 | 97.21 | Tr 4 ⅛% 27 | 100.43 | – .10 | ... | 4.00 |
| 98.68 | 85.65 | Tr 1¼% 27 | 90.52 | – .13 | ... | 3.72 |
| 114.02 | 98.23 | Tr 4¼% 27 | 102.09 | – .16 | 4.16 | 3.75 |
| 92.68 | 79.15 | Tr 0⅛% 28 | 84.63 | – .14 | ... | 3.72 |
| 100.63 | 84.72 | Tr 1⅝% 28 | 90.06 | – .19 | ... | 3.66 |
| 94.88 | 84.28 | Tr 0⅜% 26 | 88.81 | – .10 | ... | 3.89 |
| 100.06 | 89.28 | Tr 1½% 26 | 93.24 | – .11 | ... | 3.78 |
| 127.06 | 107.13 | Tr 6% 28 | 111.36 | – .22 | 5.39 | 3.72 |
| 92.99 | 77.61 | Tr 0½% 29 | 83.23 | – .13 | ... | 3.80 |
| 95.06 | 78.21 | Tr 0⅞% 29 | 84.20 | – .14 | ... | 3.65 |
| 90.09 | 72.39 | Tr 0⅜% 30 | 78.63 | – .04 | ... | 3.69 |
| 124.14 | 101.89 | Tr 4¾% 30 | 107.02 | – .05 | 4.44 | 3.68 |
| 87.42 | 69.25 | Tr 0¼% 31 | 75.60 | – .04 | ... | 3.73 |
| 92.63 | 73.06 | Tr 1% 32 | 79.64 | – .04 | ... | 3.76 |
| 122.11 | 98.13 | Tr 4¼% 32 | 104.10 | – .06 | 4.08 | 3.71 |
| 101.14 | 94.95 | Tr 4 ⅛% 27 | 95.41 | – .07 | ... | 3.82 |
| 89.47 | 68.57 | Tr 0⅞% 33 | 75.12 | – .08 | ... | 3.85 |
| 127.21 | 98.89 | Tr 4½% 34 | 105.55 | – .07 | 4.26 | 3.89 |
| 83.35 | 61.24 | Tr 0⅝% 35 | 67.91 | – .08 | ... | 3.97 |
| 126.29 | 94.91 | Tr 4¼% 36 | 102.88 | – .08 | 4.13 | 3.96 |
| 95.33 | 67.54 | Tr 1¾% 37 | 74.94 | – .06 | ... | 4.08 |
| 104.43 | ... | Tr 3¾% 38 | 95.89 | – .09 | ... | 4.13 |

### Shorts (under 5 years)

| 12 month High | Low | Stock | Price (£) | +/– | Int Yld % | Grs rd yld |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 101.69 | 93.15 | Tr 2% 25 | 95.75 | – .08 | ... | 3.95 |
| 100.88 | 98.23 | Tr 3½% 25 | 98.36 | – .08 | ... | 4.22 |
| 95.25 | 86.33 | Tr 0⅛% 26 | 90.76 | – .08 | ... | 3.75 |
| 97.62 | 90.15 | Tr 0⅝% 25 | 93.71 | – .06 | ... | 3.84 |
| 109.47 | 100.77 | Tr 5% 25 | 101.51 | – .07 | 4.93 | 4.12 |
| 96.63 | 90.04 | Tr 0¼% 25 | 93.47 | – .05 | ... | 4.26 |
| 102.85 | 96.82 | Tr 2¾% 24 | 98.10 | – .04 | ... | 4.26 |
| 99.38 | 97.34 | Tr 0¾% 23 | 99.38 | + .01 | ... | 4.15 |
| 101.06 | 98.04 | Tr 2¼% 23 | 99.35 | – .01 | ... | 4.36 |
| 97.80 | 94.34 | Tr 0⅛% 24 | 97.13 | – .02 | ... | 4.31 |
| 99.23 | 94.79 | Tr 1% 24 | 96.97 | – .03 | ... | 4.39 |

* maturities having an eight-month indexation lag.

This is a paid for information service. For further details on a particular fund, readers should contact their fund manager.

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# Business Equity prices

**Dividend yields** Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.
**12-month high and low** Please note the 12-month high and low figures for shares supplied by Morningstar are based on intra-day figures, not closing prices.

## Automobiles & parts

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 297 | 89½ | Aston Martin Lag | 231¾ | + 15½ | ... | -1.3 |

## Banking & finance

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 236 | 133 | Abrdn | 206¾ | + ¼ | ... | 4.5 |
| 2361 | 1729 | Admiral | 2190 | - 3 | ... | 11.1 |
| 71¾ | 24½ | ADVFN | 24½ | ... | ... | 4.2 |
| 390 | 255½ | AJ Bell | 315¾ | + 1¾ | ... | 29.5 |
| 26745¼ | 19844¼ | Aon Corp | 26224¾ | - 321¾ | ... | 64.0 |
| 42¾ | 23¾ | Appreciate Group | 42¾ | ... | ... | 18.3 |
| 1002½ | 645 | Arbuthnot Bkg | 942½ | - 10 | ... | 20.8 |
| 14 | 9 | Argo Group | 9 | ... | ... | 4.1 |
| 286¾ | 180¾ | Ashmore | 232¾ | - 1¾ | ... | 7.9 |
| 1390½ | 1123¼ | Aus New Z | 1256¾ | + 2¾ | ... | 9.6 |
| 537 | 373¾ | Aviva | 410¾ | ... | ... | 54.0 |
| 341½ | 193¾ | Banco Santander | 275 | + 2½ | ... | 6.5 |
| 3250 | 1270 | Bank of Georgia | 3250 | - 125 | ... | 10.0 |
| 189¾ | 133¾ | Barclays | 155¾ | + 1½ | ... | 3.7 |
| ¼ | ... | Blue Star Capital | ¼ | ... | ... | 3.2 |
| 346 | 277 | BP Marsh&Ptnrs | 312 | ... | ... | 8.6 |
| 14 | 9 | Braveheart Inv | 11¾ | - 1¼ | ... | 0.3 |
| 515 | 507 | Brewin Dolphin | 515 | + 1 | ... | 28.1 |
| 337 | 173¾ | Bridgepoint | 216¾ | - 5¾ | ... | 13.5 |
| 67 | 35 | Cenkos Secs | 38 | ... | ... | 7.7 |
| 325 | 262½ | Chesnara | 280 | - 2 | ... | 15.5 |
| 53 | 9 | City of Lon Gp | 10 | + 1 | ... | -0.6 |
| 474 | 343½ | City Lon Inv Gp | 446½ | + 4½ | ... | 10.4 |
| 1148 | 858½ | Close Bros | 907 | + 1½ | ... | 6.7 |
| 317 | 167 | CMC Markets | 180½ | - ¾ | ... | 5.5 |
| 1041½ | 499¾ | Commerzbk | 825 | - 32½ | ... | 42.2 |
| 1075½ | 662 | Deutsche Bk | 841¼ | + 7¾ | ... | 9.8 |
| 260¾ | 135 | Direct Line Ins | 159¾ | + ¼ | ... | 6.6 |
| 58½ | 57 | Downing ONE VCT | 57 | ... | ... | 7.7 |
| 6 | ... | Drumz | 5 | ... | ... | ... |
| 155¾ | 59¾ | EFG-Hermes Hldg | 64½ | - 7½ | ... | 4.1 |
| 215 | 122½ | EPE Special Opps | 157½ | ... | ... | 8.8 |
| 1235¾ | 814¾ | FBD | 1124 | ... | ... | 5.0 |
| 72½ | 67½ | Fiske | 67½ | ... | ... | 12.0 |
| 78 | 59 | Frenkel Topping | 67½ | + 1 | ... | 39.2 |
| 840 | 548 | Georgia Capital | 840 | + 20 | ... | 2.3 |
| 915 | 682 | Gresham House | 785 | ... | ... | 31.5 |
| 506 | 320 | H&T Group | 434 | + 11 | ... | 13.9 |
| 52½ | 33 | Hansard Global | 47¾ | ... | ... | 16.5 |
| 983 | 740¾ | Hargreaves Lansdown | 795 | - 5 | ... | 14.1 |
| 174¾ | 143¾ | Helios Under | 160 | ... | ... | ... |
| 647½ | 442¾ | HSBC | 603 | - 2¾ | ... | 13.1 |
| 847½ | 648 | IG Group | 697½ | - 10 | ... | 7.1 |
| 883 | 500 | Impax | 817 | - 19 | ... | 26.9 |
| 1612 | 953¾ | Intermed Capital | 1285½ | + 9½ | ... | 7.3 |
| 114 | 64¾ | IPF | 106 | ... | ... | 5.9 |
| 171½ | 136 | International Public P'ship | 142¾ | - 2½ | ... | 18.3 |
| 546¾ | 351½ | Investec | 437½ | - 3½ | ... | 10.9 |
| 330 | 253 | Investment Co | 330 | + 5 | ... | 11.8 |
| 88 | 52½ | IP Group | 54½ | + ½ | ... | 2.0 |
| 230 | 94 | Jarvis Securities | 160 | ... | ... | 11.5 |
| 179½ | 83¾ | Jupiter Fund Mgmt | 117¾ | - ¾ | ... | 4.3 |
| 95¼ | 55¾ | Just Group | 90¾ | + 1¼ | ... | ... |
| 664 | 368¾ | Lancashire Holdings | 626½ | + 2 | ... | ... |
| 284¾ | 204 | Legal & Gen | 230¾ | + ⅞ | ... | 7.0 |
| ... | ... | Liberty Group | 502¾ | - 2¾ | ... | ... |
| 1290 | 704 | Liontrust | 800 | + 6 | ... | 10.0 |
| 55¼ | 38 | Livermore Invs | 41 | ... | ... | 2.6 |
| 53⅞ | 39 | Lloyds Banking Group | 46½ | + ½ | ... | 6.4 |
| 35 | 22 | LMS Capital | 23¼ | - ⅛ | ... | 10.0 |
| 8582 | 6738 | Lond Stk Ex Gp | 8244 | - 228 | ... | 84.2 |
| 222¾ | 159¾ | M&G | 196 | - ¾ | ... | 61.2 |
| 286¾ | 204¾ | Man | 210¾ | + ¼ | ... | 8.4 |
| 29 | 8 | Manx Fin | 24½ | ... | ... | 12.4 |
| 3 | 1 | Marechale Cap | 1½ | ... | ... | 0.7 |
| 14494¾ | 11526¾ | Marsh McLn | 14348 | - 97 | ... | 29.8 |
| 760 | 530 | Mattioli Woods | 630 | ... | ... | ... |
| 19½ | 7½ | Metal Tiger | 9 | + ¾ | ... | 3.5 |
| 153¾ | 69 | Metro Bank | 92¾ | - ¼ | ... | -0.6 |
| 1752¼ | 1387¼ | Nat Aust Bk | 1395¼ | - 14¾ | ... | 13.8 |
| 309⅞ | 212¾ | NatWest | 266⅜ | + 2⅜ | ... | 10.4 |
| 341 | 170¾ | Numis | 339½ | ... | ... | 6.9 |
| 587½ | 375¾ | Onesavings Bank | 501 | - 2 | ... | 6.6 |
| 652 | 423½ | PayPoint | 423½ | - 3½ | ... | 13.2 |
| 6½ | ¼ | PCF Group | ⅜ | + ¼ | ... | -0.4 |
| 684¾ | 506¾ | Phoenix | 566¾ | - 2½ | ... | -6.5 |
| 260 | 136¼ | Provident | 225 | ... | ... | 4.2 |
| 1371½ | 797½ | Prudential | 1152 | + 9 | ... | 18.7 |
| 2¼ | ¾ | Quantum Blockchain | 1½ | ... | ... | -8.3 |
| 148¾ | 80¼ | Quilter | 82½ | - 1¾ | ... | 58.9 |
| 1403¼ | 57½ | Randall & Quilter | 58½ | - 1¼ | ... | 87.3 |
| 2220 | 1570 | Rathbone Grp | 1940 | ... | ... | 15.0 |
| 1⅜ | ½ | RiverFort Global Opps | ⅝ | ... | ... | 2.0 |
| 2040 | 1370 | Rockwood Strategic | 2040 | ... | ... | 2.9 |
| 2480 | 1905 | S & U | 2450 | ... | ... | 11.5 |
| 2 | ¾ | Sancus Lending Grp | ¾ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| 56¾ | 40¾ | Schroder REIT | 44½ | - ¼ | ... | 4.7 |
| 604¾ | 358¾ | Schroders | 460 | - 5¼ | ... | 2.1 |
| 1304½ | 920 | St James Place | 1115 | - 11½ | ... | 21.2 |
| 790¾ | 519¾ | Stand Chart | 624½ | + 4¾ | ... | 14.0 |
| 12 | 7¾ | Starvest | 7½ | ... | ... | -1.2 |
| 29 | 22¾ | STM Group | 24½ | ... | ... | 9.4 |
| 4083¾ | 3198¾ | Sun Life Can | 3952¼ | + 22 | ... | 10.1 |
| 10 | 5¼ | Tavistock Inv | 7¾ | ... | ... | 1.2 |
| 2590 | 1158 | TBC Bank Group | 2360 | - 70 | ... | 6.9 |
| 16¾ | 4 | Tern | 4¼ | ... | ... | 3.2 |
| 29¼ | 15¼ | Time Finance | 29¼ | + ¼ | ... | 17.8 |
| 1245 | 900 | Volvere | 1200 | ... | ... | ... |
| 42 | 18½ | WH Ireland | 21 | + ½ | ... | 11.8 |
| 31 | 24 | Walker Crips Grp | 26 | ... | ... | 74.2 |
| 3873 | 2893¾ | Wells Fargo | 3211 | + 131½ | ... | 8.7 |
| 1311¼ | 1027 | Westpac | 1114½ | - 11½ | ... | 15.1 |
| 31 | 21½ | Worsley Investors Ltd | 29½ | ... | ... | 92.1 |
| 40948¾ | 34778¾ | Zurich Fincl | 37335¾ | - 963¾ | ... | 14.5 |

## Investment companies

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld % | Dis(-) or Pm |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1922½ | 1042 | 3i Group | 1881 | - 4½ | ... | 14.7 |
| 363 | 281¾ | 3i Infrastructure | 326 | - ½ | ... | -3.2 |
| 102½ | 80¼ | Abrdn Div I&G | 88 | + 1 | ... | -26.1 |
| 1428 | 1066 | Aberforth Smlr | 1270 | ... | ... | -13.9 |
| 1046 | 876 | Alliance | 985 | - 3 | ... | -5.8 |
| 457 | 345 | Asia Dragon Tr | 380 | ... | ... | -13.6 |
| 230 | 174 | Athelney Trust | 185 | - 5 | ... | -17.1 |
| 206½ | 171¾ | AVI Global Trust | 190 | ... | ... | -10.8 |
| 348 | 204½ | Baillie Gifford Ch Gr | 228 | - 3 | ... | -13.3 |
| 102¾ | 73½ | Baillie Gifford Eu Gr | 94¼ | - ⅛ | ... | -14.7 |
| 829 | 657 | Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr | 759 | - 3 | ... | -9.1 |
| 168 | 131¼ | Baillie Gifford SN | 146 | + ⅜ | ... | -11.0 |
| 183 | 139¾ | Baillie Gifford UK Gr | 167¾ | + 1½ | ... | -14.4 |
| 109½ | 90¾ | Bankers | 99¼ | - ½ | ... | -10.0 |
| 5232 | 380 | BH Macro | 410¾ | + ½ | ... | 2.5 |
| 1048 | 745¾ | Biotech Growth | 833 | - 9 | ... | -8.0 |
| 151 | 95 | BlckRck Com Inc | 118¾ | - ½ | ... | -6.3 |
| 144½ | 116½ | BlckRck Fro Inv | 136¼ | - ¼ | ... | -8.8 |
| 549 | 396 | BlckRck Grt Euro | 544 | - 1 | ... | -3.9 |
| 206 | 165 | BlckRck Inc & Gwth | 189 | + 3 | ... | -12.7 |
| 457 | 330 | BlckRck Latin Am | 375½ | - 3½ | ... | -12.8 |
| 215 | 180 | BlckRck SustAm | 186¼ | + 2¼ | ... | -6.2 |
| 1526 | 1162 | BlckRck Smlr | 1328 | - 6 | ... | -13.0 |
| 670 | 477¾ | BlckRck Throgmorton | 593 | - 1 | ... | -5.7 |
| 774 | 524 | BlckRck Wld Min | 629 | - 4 | ... | 1.6 |
| 325 | 256 | CT Cap&Inc | 306½ | + 2½ | ... | -4.6 |
| 124½ | 63¼ | Balanced Comm Prop | 79½ | - 1¾ | ... | -31.6 |
| 162¾ | 122 | The Glbl Smaller | 143¾ | + ⅜ | ... | -13.0 |
| 534 | 375½ | CT Priv Eq Ord | 503 | - 9 | ... | -27.6 |
| 96½ | 60 | CT Real Estate | 63¾ | - ⅞ | ... | -33.3 |
| 90 | 71 | CT UK HIT | 83 | ... | ... | -8.7 |
| 93 | 79 | CT UK HIT B | 91 | ... | ... | ... |
| 356 | 294 | CT UK HIT UNIT | 334 | ... | ... | -8.2 |
| 1335 | 1072½ | Brown Advsr US Sm | 1197½ | + 22½ | ... | -14.3 |
| 1115 | 888 | Brunner | 1057½ | - 7½ | ... | -10.9 |
| 4065 | 3015 | Caledonia Inv | 3550 | ... | ... | -29.8 |
| 175 | 141 | Invesco BondInc | 161½ | + 1 | ... | 1.0 |
| 432 | 366½ | City of Lon IT | 412½ | - 2½ | ... | 2.2 |
| 122 | 75 | Crystal Amber Fd | 79 | ... | ... | -33.9 |
| 580 | 454 | Dunedin Entp | 560 | ... | ... | -8.0 |
| 690 | 537 | Edinburgh IT | 668 | - 2 | ... | -7.5 |
| 214 | 146½ | Edin Wwide | 147¾ | - ¾ | ... | -17.8 |
| 336 | 268 | EP Global Opp | 326 | + 4 | ... | -11.4 |
| 105 | 74½ | European Assets | 92½ | - ⅝ | ... | -6.6 |
| 796 | 608 | European Opp Tr | 763 | - 7 | ... | -12.5 |
| 989 | 769 | F&C Invest Tr | 894 | - 1 | ... | -4.0 |
| 530¾ | 413½ | Fidlty Asian Val | 516 | - 8 | ... | -0.6 |
| 294½ | 178½ | Fidelity China Sp | 228½ | + ½ | ... | -10.4 |
| 360 | 258½ | Fidlty Euro Val | 354 | - 1 | ... | -4.7 |
| 183 | 145 | Fidlty Jap Tru | 179½ | + 1¼ | ... | -9.7 |
| 293½ | 232 | Fidlty Spec Val | 281½ | - 1 | ... | -5.1 |
| 923 | 731½ | Fins Gwth & Inc | 901 | - 5 | ... | -4.3 |
| 118½ | 83¾ | GCP Infrastructure | 89 | - 1½ | ... | -18.6 |
| 659½ | 552½ | Gen Emer Mkts | 587½ | + 1¼ | ... | -13.7 |
| 45 | 28½ | Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl | 32¾ | - ½ | ... | -15.0 |
| 168½ | 130½ | Greencoat UK Wind | 155 | - 2½ | ... | -5.8 |
| 194½ | 166 | Hansa Investment | 174 | + 6 | ... | -12.4 |
| 196 | 163 | Hansa Inv Co 'A' | 167 | - ½ | ... | -44.6 |
| 2489 | 1900 | Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq | 2190 | ... | ... | -44.2 |
| 165½ | 120 | Hend Euro Foc | 157 | ... | ... | -8.9 |
| 181 | 137¼ | Hend High Inc | 173 | - ½ | ... | 0.8 |
| 952 | 674¾ | Hend Smlr | 806 | - 3 | ... | -12.5 |
| 1966 | 1540 | Herald | 1726 | - 6 | ... | -14.6 |
| 418 | 310 | HgCapital Trust | 373½ | - 2 | ... | -19.5 |
| 183½ | 138½ | HICL Infra | 151½ | - 2⅛ | ... | -7.7 |
| 450 | 216 | Highbridge Tactical | 389 | ... | ... | 47.5 |
| 1223¾ | 928 | ICG Ent Tr | 1102 | + 2 | ... | -42.3 |
| 486⅛ | 373¾ | Impax Env Mkts | 409½ | - ½ | ... | -3.8 |
| 374 | 279 | Invesco Asia Tr | 319 | - 3 | ... | -11.8 |
| 175 | 141 | Invesco BondInc | 161½ | + 1 | ... | 1.0 |
| 157¾ | 110½ | IPST Bal | 131½ | ... | ... | -14.1 |
| 258½ | 200 | IPST Gbl Eq | 231 | ... | ... | -12.9 |
| 101¾ | 92 | IPST Managed | 91 | ... | ... | -16.7 |
| 186 | 141 | IPST UK Eq | 161½ | + 3¼ | ... | -16.0 |
| 504 | 373½ | IP UKSmallerCos | 424½ | - 1½ | ... | -12.7 |
| 800 | 650 | JPM American | 709 | ... | ... | -3.3 |
| 402 | 222 | JPM Asia | 348½ | - 1½ | ... | -8.4 |
| 451½ | 239½ | JPM Chinese | 278 | - 3 | ... | -10.0 |
| 726 | 624 | JPM Claverhs | 678 | ... | ... | -4.3 |
| 120¾ | 91 | JPM Em Mkts | 103⅞ | - ⅛ | ... | -10.0 |
| 449 | 339 | JPM Euro disc | 408 | - 4 | ... | -14.6 |
| 142½ | 107½ | JPM GEMI | 128 | - ½ | ... | -9.6 |
| 481 | 386 | JPM GG&I | 456 | - 2½ | ... | 2.1 |
| 898 | 719¾ | JPM Indian | 800 | - 2 | ... | -18.3 |
| 353 | 301 | JPM Jap Sml Co | 317 | + 2 | ... | -12.9 |
| 510 | 408½ | JPM Japan | 483 | + 1½ | ... | -8.9 |
| 1012 | 735 | JPM Mid Cap | 898 | - 12 | ... | -14.6 |
| 104 | 85¾ | JPM Multi-Ass G&I | 94½ | ... | ... | -2.6 |
| -0.600 | 134¾ | "JPM Em E | GBX | + 110½ | ... | ... |
| 315 | 230 | JPM Smllr Co | 277 | ... | ... | -12.8 |
| 244½ | 174 | Keystone IT | 206½ | + ½ | ... | -16.1 |
| 871 | 649 | Law Debenture | 812 | - 3 | ... | 2.4 |
| 135 | 99 | Lowland | 122 | - ½ | ... | -9.1 |
| 223 | 156¾ | Majedie | 211½ | - ½ | ... | -12.8 |
| 354 | 272¾ | M Currie Port | 345½ | + ½ | ... | 0.4 |
| 117 | 89¾ | Marwyn Val In | 96½ | + 4 | ... | -42.1 |
| 222 | 158¾ | Mercantile IT | 202½ | - 1 | ... | -14.0 |
| 606 | 480 | Merchants | 568 | ... | ... | 0.9 |
| 768 | 639¾ | Mid Wynd | 685 | ... | ... | -2.6 |
| 1102 | 875 | Monks Inv Tst | 982 | - 1 | ... | -10.4 |
| 151½ | 104¾ | Montanaro Eur Sml | 140½ | - ½ | ... | -12.9 |
| 897 | 715 | Murray Income Trust | 861 | - 9 | ... | -7.3 |
| 275¾ | 225½ | Murray Int | 267 | - ½ | ... | 2.7 |
| 85½ | 70½ | Nb Global Floating | 73 | - ⅛ | ... | -7.1 |
| 384 | 258 | Pacific Assets | 359 | - 1 | ... | -6.0 |
| 309 | 229¾ | Pantheon Int | 269 | + 2 | ... | -41.5 |
| 3115 | 2295 | Pershing Sq | 2742 | + 40 | ... | -36.2 |
| 501½ | 463¾ | Personal Assets | 479 | - 1 | ... | -0.3 |
| 2288¾ | 1697½ | Polar Cap Tech | 2045 | + 10 | ... | -12.8 |
| 202 | 130 | Prem Glb & Inf | 144½ | - 1 | ... | -15.2 |
| 148½ | 112½ | Renewables Inf | 123¼ | - 1⅜ | ... | -6.8 |
| 2570 | 1789½ | RIT Cap Ptnr | 1946 | + 30 | ... | -19.0 |
| 750 | 530¾ | Riverstone | 560 | + 8 | ... | -53.9 |
| 457 | 366½ | Schroder TotRt | 411½ | + ½ | ... | -4.1 |
| 549½ | 436 | Schrd Asia Pac | 489 | - 1 | ... | -11.5 |
| 324 | 254½ | Schrd Inc Gwth | 306 | - 3 | ... | -0.3 |
| 218 | 187 | Schrd Jap Gwth | 217 | + 2 | ... | -12.5 |
| 626 | 454 | Schrod UKMid | 559 | - 5 | ... | -12.9 |
| 24¼ | 11½ | Schroder UK PP Tr | 14⅞ | - ⅛ | ... | -45.6 |
| 541 | 434 | Scot American | 533 | - 3 | ... | 1.4 |
| 937¼ | 604¾ | Scot Mtge | 622 | + 1 | ... | -22.0 |
| 242 | 205 | Secs Tst Scot | 219½ | - 1½ | ... | -0.6 |
| 100¾ | 75½ | Sequoia Eco | 82⅝ | - ⅛ | ... | -9.5 |
| 249½ | 195¾ | Temple Bar | 227½ | - 1½ | ... | -5.3 |
| 166 | 128½ | Tplton Emg Mkt | 147 | + 1⅛ | ... | -14.2 |
| ⅜ | ... | Tiger Royal and Inv | ⅜ | ... | ... | 45.8 |
| 421 | 263 | TR Property | 284 | - 2 | ... | -8.9 |
| 76 | 64⅞ | Troy Inc&Gth | 72⅞ | + ⅛ | ... | -1.5 |
| 236 | 122 | Utilico Ord | 146 | ... | ... | -28.7 |
| 229 | 197½ | Utilico Emerging Mkt | 226 | - 1 | ... | -12.3 |
| 712 | 500 | Vietnam Ent Inv | 548 | - 2 | ... | -16.5 |
| 237½ | 199¾ | Witan | 230¾ | + ½ | ... | -8.1 |
| 3500 | 2820 | Ww Health | 3275 | - 20 | ... | -9.6 |




## Construction & property

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 189 | 133 | Alumasc | 160 | + 2½ | ... | 8.1 |
| 14½ | 8¼ | Aseana Props | 9¼ | ... | ... | -4.6 |
| 71¾ | 47¾ | Assura | 52¼ | - ¼ | ... | 10.4 |
| 2¾ | 1½ | Aukett Swanke | 2¾ | ... | ... | -3.1 |
| 393¾ | 240¾ | Balfour Beatty | 393¾ | + ⅝ | ... | 18.6 |
| 514 | 323¾ | Barratt Devs | 500 | - 4½ | ... | 7.8 |
| 2464 | 1586½ | Bellway | 2456 | - 30 | ... | 7.3 |
| 4504 | 3165 | Berkeley | 4300 | - 65 | ... | 11.1 |
| 1426 | 987 | Big Yellow Group | 1169 | - 14 | ... | 7.7 |
| 455 | 181½ | Billington Hldgs | 430 | - 10 | ... | 34.9 |
| 345 | 218 | Boot (Henry) | 235 | - 3 | ... | 12.5 |
| 536 | 324¾ | Br Land | 356½ | - 21¾ | ... | 48.8 |
| 167½ | 120 | Caledonian Tst | 160 | ... | ... | 31.9 |
| 64¾ | 43¾ | Cap & Regnl | 55⅛ | - 2⅝ | ... | -0.4 |
| 2550 | 2310 | Cardiff Prop | 2370 | ... | ... | 25.7 |
| 25 | 2½ | Carecapital | 7½ | ... | ... | -0.8 |
| 170 | 106 | Clarke T | 149¾ | + 2¾ | ... | 10.7 |
| 291¾ | 191¾ | Countryside Partner | 229¾ | + 14 | ... | 16.7 |
| 27¾ | 5¾ | Craven House | 13¾ | ... | ... | -0.2 |
| 4353 | 2756½ | CRH | 3943 | + 20 | ... | 16.3 |
| 3044 | 1876 | Derwent London | 2206 | - 20 | ... | 9.8 |
| 4 | 3 | Dolphin Capital | 3¼ | ... | ... | -2.6 |
| 33 | 22 | First Prop | 28 | ... | ... | ... |
| 47½ | 37¾ | Fletcher King | 37½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 44 | 27¼ | Foxtons Group | 38¼ | - ¾ | ... | ... |
| 185¼ | 145 | Galliford Try | 179 | - ⅛ | ... | 39.7 |
| 470 | 252¾ | Genuit Group | 298 | - 6 | ... | 18.0 |
| 600 | 335 | Gleeson (MJ) | 444 | ... | ... | 6.9 |
| 988¾ | 630½ | Grafton | 846¾ | + 2 | ... | 9.8 |
| 312¾ | 205¾ | Grainger | 255¼ | + ⅛ | ... | 15.8 |
| 674 | 409¾ | Great Portland | 498¾ | - 3 | ... | -6.2 |
| 30½ | 17½ | Hammerson | 25½ | - ⅛ | ... | -2.7 |
| 171 | 101 | Harworth Gp | 123 | ... | ... | 4.2 |
| 630 | 425 | Heath (Samuel) | 425 | ... | ... | 8.8 |
| 442 | 276 | Helical PLC | 276 | + ½ | ... | 6.6 |
| 1065 | 865 | Highcroft Invs | 865 | ... | ... | 3.7 |
| 208¼ | 148¼ | Ibstock | 164 | - 1¾ | ... | 21.3 |
| 234 | 176 | James Halstead | 212 | + 4 | ... | 22.5 |
| 849 | 591 | Keller | 672 | + 36 | ... | 7.8 |
| 6802¼ | 3912¾ | Kingspan Group | 5411¾ | - 104¾ | ... | 21.2 |
| 774½ | 485¼ | Land Sec | 628¾ | - 6⅝ | ... | ... |
| 102¼ | 58 | Life Science Reit | 74 | + ¾ | ... | ... |
| 25 | 13 | Lon & Assoc | 13½ | - ½ | ... | -1.8 |
| 261 | 161¾ | Londonmetric Property | 187⅞ | - 1⅝ | ... | 4.0 |
| 61¾ | 37 | Macau Prop Op | 60 | + ¼ | ... | -7.7 |
| 545½ | 225¾ | Marshalls | 290 | + 2¾ | ... | 10.5 |
| 118 | 74 | Michelmersh | 92½ | ... | ... | 14.7 |
| 2120 | 1392 | Morgan Sindall | 1842 | - 6 | ... | 9.0 |
| 13900 | 10800 | Mountview | 11150 | - 50 | ... | 13.9 |
| 99½ | 68¾ | NewRiver REIT | 84¼ | + ½ | ... | -2.9 |
| 291 | 195 | Palace Capital | 232 | - 8 | ... | 11.1 |
| 335 | 260 | Panther Securities | 300 | - 10 | ... | 2.7 |
| 2254 | 1138½ | Persimmon | 1319½ | - 22 | ... | 5.3 |
| 5½ | 2¼ | Pires Investments | 2¾ | ... | ... | -4.7 |
| 65 | 30 | Plaza Cent | 30 | ... | ... | ... |
| 148½ | 98⅞ | Primary Health Properties | 106¾ | - ⅛ | ... | 10.9 |
| 39 | 28¾ | Real Estate Invs | 30½ | ... | ... | 3.9 |
| 585 | 372½ | Redrow | 535 | - 2½ | ... | 6.6 |
| 1177 | 794 | Safestore | 954 | - 8½ | ... | 5.4 |
| 1190 | 763¾ | Savills | 896 | - 42 | ... | 8.9 |
| 6¼ | 5¾ | Secure Property | 5⅝ | ... | ... | 14.8 |
| 1129 | 694 | Segro | 815 | - 6½ | ... | 2.4 |
| 44⅞ | 27¾ | SIG | 41 | - 1¼ | ... | ... |
| 69 | 37¾ | SigmaRoc | 61 | - ⅛ | ... | ... |
| 116¾ | 66½ | Sirius Real Estate | 78¼ | - ⅜ | ... | 6.1 |
| 173¼ | 160¾ | Smart (J) | 164½ | ... | ... | 4.5 |
| 50 | 29½ | Steppe Cement | 37¼ | ... | ... | 8.5 |
| 132¾ | 85 | Taylor Wimpey | 125⅝ | - ⅜ | ... | 8.2 |
| 178½ | 129 | Town Centre | 141½ | + 3 | ... | 5.5 |
| 1223½ | 738 | Travis Perkins | 919½ | - 2¾ | ... | 8.9 |
| 204¾ | 125¾ | Tritax Big Box Reit | 147½ | - ½ | ... | 2.6 |
| 98¼ | 57 | Tritax Eurobox | 69¼ | ... | ... | ... |
| 306½ | 184½ | Tyman | 254 | - 3½ | ... | 10.0 |
| 1207 | 791¼ | Unite | 918½ | - 1½ | ... | 10.7 |
| 938½ | 519½ | Vistry Group | 814 | - 2½ | ... | 7.1 |
| 166 | 91 | Warehouse REIT | 106½ | - ½ | ... | 2.5 |
| 722 | 343¾ | Workspace Grp | 473½ | - 1½ | ... | -7.0 |
| 755 | 622½ | Wynnstay Props | 665 | + 15 | ... | 4.8 |

## Consumer goods

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5¾ | 1 | Agriterra | 1¼ | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 39½ | 25½ | Airea | 34 | ... | ... | 12.5 |
| 952 | 740 | Anglo-Eastern | 861 | + 19 | ... | 7.8 |
| 306 | 147½ | Animalcare | 182½ | - 5 | ... | ... |
| 2070 | 1237 | AB Foods | 1884½ | - 19 | ... | 31.1 |
| 121 | 79 | Bakkavor Group | 92 | - 2⅜ | ... | 9.5 |
| 569 | 432 | Barr (AG) | 517 | ... | ... | 18.3 |
| 3⅞ | 1½ | Bidstack Group | 1¾ | ... | ... | -1.4 |
| 68 | 24½ | Brand Architekts | 32½ | ... | ... | -1.4 |
| 3628 | 2674½ | Brit Amer Tob | 2674½ | - 45½ | ... | 9.0 |
| 936 | 707½ | Britvic | 914 | - 21 | ... | 20.7 |
| 2641 | 1542½ | Burberry | 2520 | - 17 | ... | 21.6 |
| 212½ | 140¾ | C&C Grp | 153 | - ¾ | ... | -9.1 |
| 7¼ | 2¼ | Capital Metals | 4¼ | ... | ... | -1.1 |
| 145 | 92 | Carr's Grp | 142 | + 2¾ | ... | 17.5 |
| 575 | 322 | Character Grp | 322 | - 7 | ... | 5.7 |
| 1640 | 1070 | Churchill China | 1370 | ... | ... | ... |
| 2535 | 1674 | Coca Cola HBC | 2535 | - 30 | ... | 20.2 |
| 880 | 610 | Colefax | 752½ | ... | ... | 13.3 |
| 3340 | 2586 | Cranswick | 3100 | - 36 | ... | 16.3 |
| 329 | 164 | Devro | 329 | ... | ... | 17.8 |
| 3960 | 3410½ | Diageo | 3500 | - 53½ | ... | 26.9 |
| 1¾ | ⅝ | Distil | ½ | ... | ... | 13.7 |
| 1000 | 784 | Evans (M.P.) | 832 | - 4 | ... | 7.1 |
| 103½ | 67 | Finsbury Food | 93 | ... | ... | 11.0 |
| 9920 | 5690 | Games Workshop | 9730 | - 60 | ... | 26.8 |
| 1222 | 846¾ | Glanbia | 1222 | - 5¾ | ... | 30.1 |
| 114½ | 60¾ | Greencore | 80 | - ⅜ | ... | 16.0 |
| 355 | 231 | Headlam | 277 | - 1 | ... | 11.9 |
| 1218 | 500 | Hilton Food | 733 | + 2 | ... | 15.3 |
| 31½ | 22 | Hornby | 23 | - ½ | ... | ... |
| 2185 | 1668½ | Imperial Brands | 1819½ | - 19½ | ... | 6.0 |
| 1½ | 1¼ | J Lewis Hford | 1¾ | ... | ... | 8.2 |
| 9481½ | 7273 | Kerry Gp | 8289 | + 78 | ... | 22.9 |
| 36¼ | 15½ | McBride | 30⅛ | - 1⅜ | ... | -5.4 |
| 305 | 205 | Mulberry Group | 250 | + 5 | ... | 10.3 |
| 1460 | 986½ | Nichols | 1055 | + 35 | ... | ... |
| 255 | 165 | Norcros | 173 | - 2 | ... | 5.4 |
| 381¾ | 296¾ | Origin Ents | 334¾ | ... | ... | 10.5 |
| 14½ | ⅞ | Pittards | 6⅞ | - ½ | ... | 3.0 |
| 512½ | 300 | Portmeirion | 490 | ... | ... | 20.8 |
| 1 | ⅝ | Provexis | ⅝ | ... | ... | 0.3 |
| 221 | 170½ | PZ Cussons | 197¾ | - 1½ | ... | 22.7 |
| 164 | 92½ | REA | 97 | ... | ... | -7.6 |
| 2⅞ | 1 | Real Gd Fd | 1⅛ | ... | ... | 0.1 |
| 350 | 235 | Tandem | 240 | ... | ... | 3.4 |
| 904 | 507 | Treatt | 700 | ... | ... | 28.1 |
| 3¼ | 1⅝ | Ukrproduct Gp | 2¼ | ... | ... | -1.5 |
| 5051 | 4076½ | Unilever (NV) | 4973½ | - 18 | ... | 25.5 |
| 4443½ | 3451¼ | Unilever | 4315 | - 28 | ... | 22.1 |
| 660 | 317 | Victoria | 485½ | - 3 | ... | ... |

## Engineering

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ... | ... | Ass Br Eng | 15 | ... | ... | -3.5 |
| 1222 | 739 | Avon Rubber | 963 | + 16 | ... | ... |
| 367½ | 268½ | Babcock | 318¾ | + 2 | ... | -1.9 |
| 1032 | 714 | BAE | 986⅝ | + 1⅜ | ... | 18.0 |
| 2150 | 1300 | Braime A N/V | 1300 | ... | ... | 14.6 |
| 1750 | 1480 | Braime Group | 1750 | + 100 | ... | 19.7 |
| 602½ | 500 | Caffyns | 550 | ... | ... | 7.9 |
| 5 | 1½ | Cap XX Ld | 1¼ | ... | ... | -2.8 |
| 380 | 279 | Castings | 377 | ... | ... | 18.2 |
| 5 | 3¼ | Chamberlin | 3⅜ | ... | ... | -0.2 |
| 36 | 14 | Checkit | 28 | ... | ... | -3.4 |
| 560 | 391 | Cohort | 499 | - 1½ | ... | 44.3 |
| 400 | 181½ | Crestchic Plc | 399 | ... | ... | ... |
| 1390 | 1020¾ | Dewhurst | 1075 | ... | ... | 12.3 |
| 359½ | 192¾ | Dialight | 223 | + 2 | ... | ... |
| 1342¾ | 886¾ | Electrolux 'B' | 1233¾ | - 4⅞ | ... | 9.3 |
| 182½ | 85½ | Feedback | 118½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 940 | 426 | Gooch Hsego | 572 | + 8 | ... | 42.3 |
| 4370 | 2400 | Goodwin | 4370 | - 50 | ... | 24.1 |
| 2445 | 1876½ | Halma | 2445 | - 33 | ... | 35.4 |
| 1448 | 893 | Hill & Smith | 1340 | + 6 | ... | 31.5 |
| 121½ | 71½ | Holders Tech | 76 | ... | ... | 4.6 |
| 2¼ | ¾ | Image Scan | 2⅛ | ... | ... | 12.6 |
| 1674 | 1071 | IMI | 1625 | + 1 | ... | 22.2 |
| ... | ... | Inspirit Energy | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10025 | 6740 | Judges Scientific | 9420 | ... | ... | 47.5 |
| 85½ | 71½ | LPA | 80½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 798¾ | 768¾ | Meggitt | 798¾ | + ⅛ | ... | ... |
| 510¾ | 286½ | Melrose | 488 | + 20½ | ... | ... |
| 325 | 217 | Morgan Advanced | 290½ | + ½ | ... | 12.2 |
| 29⅞ | 227½ | Mpac | 240 | + 10 | ... | 6.3 |
| 745 | 260 | MS Intl | 475 | - 5 | ... | 67.8 |
| 2855 | 1720 | Oxford Inst | 2770 | - 40 | ... | 37.8 |
| 2121¼ | 1057¾ | Philips El nv | 1656¼ | + 7 | ... | 29.4 |
| 18½ | 12½ | PipeHawk | 12½ | ... | ... | 26.6 |
| 92½ | 23¾ | Pressure Tech | 44½ | + ½ | ... | -3.7 |
| 4338 | 3342 | Renishaw | 3704 | - 18 | ... | 21.1 |
| 29½ | 20½ | Renold | 29¼ | ... | ... | 10.4 |
| 158 | 66½ | Rolls-Royce | 152¾ | + 4¾ | ... | ... |
| 1¾ | ⅝ | Ross Gp | ⅝ | ... | ... | -1.6 |
| 336⅞ | 229½ | Rotork | 330½ | + 1½ | ... | 35.8 |
| 200 | 144 | SDI Group | 146 | ... | ... | 24.0 |
| 176½ | 111 | Senior | 176½ | + 3¼ | ... | 30.8 |
| 67 | 48 | Severfield | 65 | - ½ | ... | 11.6 |
| 15½ | 8 | Six Hundred | 8⅝ | ... | ... | 50.4 |
| 1669½ | 1124¾ | SKF B | 1408¾ | + 30¾ | ... | 10.4 |
| 300 | 200 | Slingsby (HC) | 300 | ... | ... | 4.9 |
| 1797½ | 1364 | Smiths | 1680½ | ... | ... | 26.7 |
| 1435 | 986 | Solid State | 1125 | ... | ... | 27.1 |
| 470 | 324 | Somero Enter | 325 | + 1 | ... | 7.2 |
| 3841 | 2690 | Spectris | 3823 | + 10 | ... | 12.5 |
| 12350 | 9130 | Spirax-Sarco | 11015 | - 70 | ... | 34.6 |
| 57½ | 28½ | Surface Trsfms | 35½ | - 1 | ... | ... |
| 3½ | 1½ | Tanfield | 3¼ | ... | ... | -9.0 |
| 445 | 345 | Thorpe FW | 362 | - 5 | ... | 25.1 |
| 2⅝ | ⅝ | TP Group | 2⅛ | ... | ... | -3.3 |
| 95½ | 48½ | Transense Tech | 86½ | + 2 | ... | 63.6 |
| 3500 | 3070 | Ultra Electrncs | 3500 | + 6 | ... | 37.4 |
| 435 | 284½ | Vesuvius | 411½ | + 2 | ... | 10.9 |
| 1530 | 713 | Videndum | 720 | - 11 | ... | 13.2 |
| 323½ | 202 | Volex | 275 | - ½ | ... | 15.0 |
| 2021 | 1328½ | Weir | 1783 | + 3½ | ... | 30.1 |
| 3435 | 1464 | XP Power | 2220 | ... | ... | 11.8 |
| 182½ | 98 | Zytronic | 102½ | + 5 | ... | 34.1 |

## Health

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1454 | 1058 | Abcam | 1226 | + 123 | ... | ... |
| 316 | 219½ | AdvancedMedical | 253 | - ½ | ... | 39.7 |
| 22 | 5 | Allergy Therap | 6¼ | + 1¼ | ... | -7.3 |
| 156 | 16½ | Angle | 21 | + ½ | ... | -2.8 |
| 603 | 185 | Anpario | 210 | + 7½ | ... | 11.0 |
| 12294 | 9656 | AstraZeneca | 11924 | - 146 | ... | ... |
| 37¼ | 29 | Circassia Group | 34 | ... | ... | 34.0 |
| 248½ | 199 | Convatec | 215¼ | - 2¾ | ... | 50.2 |
| 59 | 25¾ | Creighton | 35 | ... | ... | 6.7 |
| 3810 | 2520 | Dechra Pharma | 3620 | - 30 | ... | 54.0 |
| 1½ | ¾ | Deltex Medical | 1½ | ... | ... | -8.8 |
| 23¼ | 10½ | e-Therapeutics | 12½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 130 | 82½ | Eco Animal Hlth | 112½ | - 1 | ... | 13.6 |
| 51 | 24¾ | EKF Diagnostics | 24⅞ | - 1½ | ... | 7.0 |
| 56⅞ | 26¾ | Futura Medical | 41¼ | - ¾ | ... | ... |
| 3272 | 2298 | Genus | 2484 | - 60 | ... | 44.2 |
| 1820¾ | 1296 | GSK | 1442¾ | - 23½ | ... | 16.6 |
| ⅝ | ¼ | Gunsynd | ⅜ | ... | ... | 3.6 |
| 353½ | 246½ | Haleon | 339½ | - 6¾ | ... | ... |
| 1874 | 1190½ | Hikma Pharms | 1835 | - ½ | ... | 13.7 |
| 335 | 134½ | Hutchmed China | 221 | - 5¼ | ... | ... |
| ... | ... | Immunodiag Sys | 378 | ... | ... | ... |
| 6⅞ | 1½ | ImmuPharma | 3 | - ¼ | ... | -0.9 |
| 7025 | 1365 | Indivior | 1482 | + 16 | ... | 84.8 |
| 105 | 42½ | Inspiration Health | 42½ | + ½ | ... | 6.5 |
| 41½ | 18½ | IXICO | 19¾ | ... | ... | 6.3 |
| 501½ | 350 | Mediclinic | 499¾ | - ⅛ | ... | 31.2 |

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3½ | 1½ | N4 Pharma♦ | 1¾ | ... | ... | -2.1 |
| 93.86 | 73.33 | Novartis | CHF 92.16 | + 0.01 | ... | 10.3 |
| 4 | 2¼ | Omega Diags♦ | 2½ | ... | ... | -0.9 |
| 11½ | 4¾ | Ovoca Bio♦ | 7¼ | + ¼ | ... | -2.0 |
| 562 | 297 | Oxford Biomedica | 424 | − 6½ | ... | 19.0 |
| 5 | 2 | Physiomics♦ | 2¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 5 | 3¼ | Proteome Scies♦ | 5 | + ¾ | ... | ... |
| 6808 | 5556 | **Reckitt Benckiser**‡ | 6476 | − 94 | ... | ... |
| 63½ | 31⅜ | RUA Life Sciences♦ | 39 | + ½ | ... | -3.7 |
| 230 | 70 | Sareum Hldgs♦ | 122½ | − 2½ | ... | ... |
| 1321½ | 984½ | **Smith & Neph**‡ | 1301½ | + 2½ | ... | 29.5 |
| 250 | 203 | Spire Hcare | 239½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 35 | 7⅜ | Synairgen♦ | 9¾ | ... | ... | -0.4 |
| 70 | 42 | Tissue Regenix♦ | 54½ | − 1½ | ... | ... |
| 46½ | 15½ | Totally♦ | 20¾ | − ⅜ | ... | 32.9 |
| 420 | 295 | Tristel♦ | 332½ | ... | ... | 68.5 |
| 27½ | 8⅞ | ValiRx♦ | 9¾ | ... | ... | ... |

## Industrials

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 135 | 54⅜ | Accsys Tech♦ | 64⅛ | + ⅛ | ... | ... |
| 4711½ | 3387⅛ | BASF | 4072⅞ | − 15½ | ... | 8.0 |
| 5818¾ | 4133⅞ | Bayer DM50 | 4668¾ | + 12⅛ | ... | 54.5 |
| 205 | 46½ | Biome Tech♦ | 122½ | + 7½ | ... | -4.0 |
| 3⅝ | 1½ | Byotrol♦ | 1½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 7 | 6¾ | Camb Gbl Timber♦ | 6¾ | ... | ... | -9.0 |
| 79 | 50⅞ | Coats Grp‡ | 68¼ | − 4⅝ | ... | 15.2 |
| 7482 | 5908 | **Croda**‡ | 6342 | − 338 | ... | 27.6 |
| 1125 | 575 | Cropper (James)♦ | 895 | + 62½ | ... | 27.2 |
| 129 | 87⅝ | Elementis | 116⅜ | + ½ | ... | ... |
| 29 | 11 | Hardide♦ | 13½ | ... | ... | -2.6 |
| 2373 | 1784 | **Johnson Math** | 1889 | − 18 | ... | 23.8 |
| 1705 | 1242 | **Mondi** | 1267½ | − 34 | ... | 9.6 |
| 100 | 77½ | Robinson♦ | 93½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 368½ | 241¾ | **DS Smith** | 312½ | − 2½ | ... | 17.7 |
| 735¾ | 440¼ | Swire Pacific | 573⅝ | − 17⅜ | ... | ... |
| 19 | 7¼ | Symph Environ♦ | 7¼ | ... | ... | ... |
| 332¾ | 88 | Synthomer | 107¾ | − 2⅜ | ... | 2.2 |
| 2749⅞ | 2099⅞ | Takeda Pharm | 2603¼ | − 28 | ... | 14.5 |
| 7 | 3 | Velocys♦ | 3⅜ | − ⅛ | ... | -4.2 |
| 1931 | 1504 | Victrex | 1546 | + 10 | ... | 18.4 |
| 651 | 425 | Wynnstay Group♦ | 425 | − 5 | ... | 9.7 |
| 410 | 233 | Zotefoams‡ | 380 | ... | ... | 22.8 |

## Leisure

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 210⅜ | 51⅝ | 888 Hldgs | 82¼ | + ⅝ | ... | 6.0 |
| 846 | 542 | Accesso Tech♦ | 698 | − 7 | ... | 18.3 |
| 680 | 370 | Best of the Best♦ | 575 | − 22½ | ... | 6.4 |
| 1080 | 501⅜ | Carnival | 765⅛ | + 29¾ | ... | -1.2 |
| 135 | 108 | Celtic♦ | 127½ | ... | ... | 12.6 |
| 28¼ | ¾ | Cineworld | ⅞ | ... | ... | ... |
| 339 | 215⅛ | Domino's Pizza | 294⅜ | − 1⅛ | ... | 15.0 |
| 1587½ | 1075½ | **Entain** | 1474½ | + 1½ | ... | 32.9 |
| 16200 | 7614 | **Flutter Ent** | 16200 | + 100 | ... | ... |
| 32¾ | 22 | Gaming Realms♦ | 32⅛ | + ⅛ | ... | ... |
| 290 | 290 | Heavitree♦ | 290 | ... | ... | 17.4 |
| 185 | 65 | Heavitree A♦ | 110 | ... | ... | 6.6 |
| 145 | 120 | Hermes Pacific♦ | 120 | ... | ... | ... |
| 5784 | 4193 | **InterContinental Hotels** | 5378 | + 30 | ... | 50.3 |
| 1¼ | ¾ | Minoan Gp♦ | 1 | ... | ... | -7.6 |
| 215¾ | 102 | Mitch & Butlers | 199 | + 4 | ... | ... |
| 240½ | 92½ | On The Beach | 107⅞ | − 2 | ... | -5.6 |
| 1600 | 1020 | PPHE Hotels‡ | 1080 | + 5 | ... | -8.7 |
| 112 | 52⅜ | Rank Grp | 104⅜ | ... | ... | 14.1 |
| 56½ | 26⅝ | Restaurant Gp | 48¾ | − ⅛ | ... | -9.2 |
| 50½ | 30½ | Rotala♦ | 46½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 25 | 15½ | Sportech♦ | 20¼ | + ¾ | ... | ... |
| 277⅞ | 184¾ | SSP | 263½ | + 2⅛ | ... | -5.1 |
| 5¾ | 1⅞ | Tasty♦ | 3 | − ⅛ | ... | 4.1 |
| 295 | 65 | Tintra♦ | 91½ | ... | ... | -1.6 |
| 704⅜ | 290⅝ | Tui | 539½ | + 10¾ | ... | -5.6 |
| 3⅛ | 1⅛ | Webis Holdings♦ | 1⅜ | ... | ... | ... |
| 783½ | 389¾ | Wetherspoon JD | 756 | − 9½ | ... | -7.0 |
| 3281 | 2285 | **Whitbread** | 3281 | + 13 | ... | ... |
| 1340 | 870 | Young & Co - A♦ | 1160 | − 15 | ... | ... |
| 835 | 564 | Young & Co - N/V♦ | 749 | − 1 | ... | ... |

## Media

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ⅝ | ⅛ | 7digital Gp♦ | ⅝ | ... | ... | -5.7 |
| 88 | 52½ | Aeorema Comms♦ | 80 | ... | ... | 22.1 |
| 48 | 20½ | Altitude Group♦ | 43 | ... | ... | ... |
| 85½ | 70½ | Arcontech Grp♦ | 72½ | ... | ... | 10.0 |
| 315½ | 176⅛ | Ascential | 247 | + 6 | ... | ... |
| 675 | 486⅛ | **Auto Trader** | 637⅜ | + 8⅜ | ... | 31.4 |
| 492 | 366 | Bloomsbury Pub | 431½ | + 1½ | ... | 17.7 |

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 3¼ | Bonhill Group♦ | 5 | ... | ... | ... |
| 172½ | 71 | Catalyst Media♦ | 140 | ... | ... | ... |
| ¼ | ⅛ | Catenae♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -0.2 |
| ... | ... | Daily Mail‡ | 270 | − 2½ | ... | 10.3 |
| 150 | 100 | DCD Media♦# | 100 | − 30 | ... | 5.0 |
| 64½ | 43 | Ebiquity♦ | 48 | ... | ... | ... |
| 1466 | 965 | Euromoney In Inv | 1460 | + 2 | ... | ... |
| 2060 | 1046 | Future | 1046 | + 12 | ... | 18.0 |
| 1400 | 930 | GlobalData♦ | 1305 | ... | ... | 64.6 |
| 120¾ | 50 | Hyve Group | 120⅜ | − ⅛ | ... | ... |
| 196 | 46½ | IG Design Grp♦ | 160 | + 2 | ... | 23.4 |
| 722½ | 501¾ | **Informa** | 706¾ | + 2⅛ | ... | ... |
| 90 | 55⅛ | ITV‡ | 74⅛ | − ¼ | ... | 7.9 |
| 10¼ | 4⅛ | Jaywing♦ | 4⅝ | ... | ... | ... |
| 9⅜ | 1¾ | Live Company Gp♦ | 1⅞ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| ... | ... | Mediazest♦ | ... | ... | ... | -5.3 |
| 47 | 26½ | Merit Grp♦ | 44 | − ½ | ... | ... |
| 52½ | 19 | Mirada♦ | 19 | ... | ... | -0.8 |
| 68½ | 42 | Mission Group♦ | 51 | ... | ... | 8.6 |
| 280⅜ | 167 | Moneysupermarket | 263⅜ | + ⅛ | ... | 26.8 |
| 1714½ | 1193¾ | News Corp A | 1475⅞ | + 2⅜ | ... | 24.0 |
| 1730⅜ | 1219⅜ | News Corp B | 1481⅞ | + ⅜ | ... | 24.1 |
| 1326 | 755 | Next 15 Comms♦ | 799 | − 25 | ... | ... |
| 995⅛ | 734½ | **Pearson** | 828⅛ | + 6½ | ... | 39.6 |
| 107 | 65⅛ | Photo-Me | 107 | + 5 | ... | 18.6 |
| 4⅜ | 2 | Primorus Inv♦ | 3⅛ | ... | ... | 5.7 |
| 187½ | 108½ | Quarto | 166½ | + ½ | ... | 9.2 |
| 125 | 67 | Reach‡ | 76⅜ | + ½ | ... | 84.8 |
| 1⅜ | ¾ | REACT Grp♦ | 1⅜ | ... | ... | 19.6 |
| 2722 | 2081 | **Relx**‡ | 2464 | − 6 | ... | 32.5 |
| 663 | 445⅜ | **Rightmove**‡ | 558 | ... | ... | 31.5 |
| 140 | 65 | SpaceandPeople♦ | 92½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 315 | 245 | STV Group‡ | 250 | ... | ... | 6.1 |
| 310 | 122½ | System1 Group♦ | 185 | − 5 | ... | 8.8 |
| 2964¼ | 2249½ | 21st Cent Fox Inc A | 2501⅞ | + 52⅞ | ... | 13.7 |
| 2743¾ | 2121¾ | 21st Cent Fox Inc B | 2304 | + 41⅛ | ... | 12.6 |
| ... | ... | Vela Tech♦ | ... | ... | ... | 6.6 |
| 356 | 222 | Wilmington | 292 | − 6 | ... | 18.5 |
| 1051½ | 725¾ | **WPP** | 888⅜ | + 4 | ... | 16.9 |
| 117½ | 77½ | Zinc Media♦ | 106½ | ... | ... | -6.7 |

## Natural resources

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ⅜ | ADM Energy♦ | ¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| ⅛ | ... | Advance Energy♦# | ⅛ | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 33⅞ | 17¾ | AFC Energy♦ | 18⅛ | − ¼ | ... | ... |
| ... | ... | Afentra PLC | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ⅛ | ... | Alba Mineral Res♦ | ... | ... | ... | -2.1 |
| ¾ | ⅜ | Alien Metals♦ | ⅜ | ... | ... | ... |
| 91½ | 65 | Alumina | 75⅞ | − 1 | ... | 15.8 |
| 1¼ | ⅝ | Aminex | 1 | ... | ... | -6.1 |
| 1¾ | ⅝ | Amur Mins Corp♦ | 1⅝ | ... | ... | ... |
| 727114½ | 4759⅞ | Anglo Amer Plat | 4759⅞ | + 36¾ | ... | 3.4 |
| 4017½ | 2370 | **Anglo American** | 2370 | + 4½ | ... | 4.6 |
| 121 | 64 | Anglo Asian Mng♦ | 107½ | − 5 | ... | 9.3 |
| 1805 | 991½ | **Antofagasta** | 1426½ | + 22½ | ... | 14.7 |
| 4⅞ | 2⅞ | Arc Minerals♦ | 3⅜ | ... | ... | 2.5 |
| 3⅞ | 2½ | Ariana Res♦ | 2½ | ... | ... | 3.4 |
| ¾ | ⅜ | Arkle Resources♦ | ⅜ | ... | ... | -1.4 |
| 3⅝ | 1⅜ | Armadale Cap♦ | 1⅜ | ... | ... | ... |
| 2 | ⅞ | Asiamet Rsrcs♦ | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| 402½ | 188 | Atalaya Mine♦ | 337 | − 3 | ... | 4.2 |
| ¼ | ... | Baron Oil♦ | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 6 | 1⅞ | Beowulf Mining♦ | 2 | ... | ... | -8.7 |
| ⅛ | ... | Bezant Res♦ | ... | ... | ... | -0.8 |
| 2855 | 2034 | BHP Group | 2357 | + 5½ | ... | 10.3 |
| 5½ | 1¾ | Border & Sthn Pet♦ | 2⅝ | ... | ... | ... |
| 21⅞ | 13⅞ | Bougainville | 19⅞ | − ¼ | ... | ... |
| 4¾ | 1 | BowLeven♦ | 1 | ... | ... | -1.3 |
| 567½ | 363⅞ | **BP**‡ | 478¼ | + 2⅜ | ... | 17.3 |
| 16⅝ | 8¾ | Cadence Min♦ | 10 | + ⅛ | ... | 1.0 |
| 3½ | 1⅝ | Cadogan Petrol | 1⅝ | − ¼ | ... | 23.6 |
| 1350 | 825 | Caledonia Mining♦ | 1070 | ... | ... | 10.4 |
| 261¾ | 196½ | Capricorn Energy‡ | 197¾ | − 7⅛ | ... | 1.5 |
| 8⅜ | 2¼ | Caspian Sunrise♦ | 6 | ... | ... | ... |
| 125½ | 74⅜ | Centamin | 107 | − ⅞ | ... | 16.6 |
| 292½ | 202 | Cent Asia Metals♦‡ | 204 | + 1 | ... | 5.9 |
| 16½ | 7⅜ | Chaarat Gold♦ | 11¼ | + 2⅜ | ... | ... |
| 23 | 13½ | Chariot Oil & Gas♦ | 16 | ... | ... | ... |
| 6 | 1¼ | China Nonferr Gold♦ | 1¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| ½ | ... | Clontarf Energy♦ | ... | ... | ... | -2.0 |
| 35¾ | 15¼ | Condor Gld♦ | 28¾ | − ¾ | ... | ... |
| 1⅜ | ⅛ | Corcel♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| 10256¼ | 93⅝ | DRD Gold | 93⅝ | + 1⅜ | ... | 11.0 |
| 1¼ | ½ | ECR Minerals♦ | ½ | ... | ... | -3.4 |
| 21 | 4¾ | Edenville Energy♦ | 4⅞ | + ⅛ | ... | -0.3 |
| 1½ | ⅝ | Empyrean Energy♦ | 1⅛ | ... | ... | -8.7 |
| 2184 | 1461 | **Endeavour** | 2018 | − 26 | ... | 30.0 |
| 35¾ | 15⅝ | EnQuest | 16 | − ⅛ | ... | 1.0 |
| 8½ | 2½ | Eurasia Mining♦ | 2⅝ | + ⅛ | ... | ... |
| 3 | ⅞ | Europa Oil&Gas♦ | 1⅛ | + ⅛ | ... | 10.6 |
| 193⅛ | 97½ | Ferrexpo | 101 | − 3¾ | ... | 0.7 |
| 968 | 644 | **Fresnillo**‡ | 663¾ | − 9⅛ | ... | 15.7 |
| ... | ... | G3 Exploration# | 28 | ... | ... | -2.6 |
| 39 | 18½ | Galantas Gold♦ | 18½ | ... | ... | -3.1 |
| 7¼ | 2¾ | GCM Resources♦ | 2¾ | ... | ... | -2.2 |
| 61¾ | 23¾ | Gem Diamonds | 23¾ | + ⅜ | ... | 2.4 |
| 31½ | 12⅛ | Getech♦ | 14¾ | − ⅜ | ... | -3.5 |
| 578 | 400 | **Glencore**‡ | 436⅜ | + 4¼ | ... | 15.9 |
| ½ | ⅛ | Global Petrol♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -2.1 |
| 134829⅜ | 1248⅞ | Gold Fields | 1248⅞ | + 2¼ | ... | 19.2 |
| 12½ | 7¼ | Goldplat♦ | 8¼ | ... | ... | 6.2 |
| 8¼ | 2½ | Goldstone Res♦ | 3¼ | − ¼ | ... | ... |
| 13¼ | 6¾ | Greatld Gld♦ | 7¼ | − ⅛ | ... | ... |
| 99¾ | 70 | Griffin Mining♦ | 88⅞ | − ⅜ | ... | 9.8 |
| 310 | 129⅝ | Gulf Keystone | 134¼ | ... | ... | 8.4 |
| 25⅞ | 5⅝ | Harland & Wolff Gp♦ | 15½ | − ¼ | ... | 1.2 |
| 115¼ | 51½ | Hochschild | 80¼ | + ⅞ | ... | 7.7 |
| 168 | 85 | Horizonte Minrls♦ | 140 | ... | ... | ... |
| 356½ | 187½ | Hunting PLC | 205 | − 2 | ... | -5.2 |
| 106½ | 15¾ | IGas Energy♦ | 16 | − ⅛ | ... | -0.8 |
| ⅜ | ... | Independ Res♦ | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 317 | 195 | Indus Gas♦ | 195 | ... | ... | 20.2 |
| ¾ | ¼ | Ironveld♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | -4.9 |
| 318⅜ | 69⅛ | ITM Power♦ | 69⅛ | − 2⅛ | ... | ... |
| 15½ | 7⅛ | Jubilee Metals♦ | 7¾ | ... | ... | 6.5 |
| 3 | 1⅝ | Karel Diamd Res♦ | 2½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 1 | ½ | KEFI Gold and Copper♦ | ⅞ | ... | ... | -3.5 |
| 495 | 380½ | Kenmare Res‡ | 443 | − 2 | ... | 5.1 |
| 27⅞ | 5¾ | Lamprell# | 8⅞ | ... | ... | -0.7 |
| 23½ | 11¾ | Landore Res♦ | 11¾ | + ½ | ... | -2.6 |
| ½ | ⅜ | Lansdowne O&G♦ | ⅜ | ... | ... | ... |
| 16 | 12½ | Leeds Group♦ | 12½ | ... | ... | -2.0 |
| 8¼ | 1⅞ | Lexington Gold♦ | 8¼ | − ½ | ... | ... |
| 21½ | 3⅛ | MC Mining♦ | 9¾ | ... | ... | -2.0 |
| 2¼ | ¾ | Metals Explorn♦ | 1⅞ | ... | ... | 3.3 |
| ⅝ | ⅛ | Nostra Terra♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -1.1 |
| 26½ | ⅛ | Nostrum O&G# | 10 | + ¼ | ... | ... |
| ... | ... | Oil Search | 218⅞ | − 5⅜ | ... | 60.3 |
| ⅛ | ⅛ | Oilex♦# | ⅛ | ... | ... | -3.7 |
| ¼ | ... | Oriole Resources♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -2.1 |
| ⅞ | ½ | Ormonde Mining♦# | ¾ | ... | ... | -3.1 |
| 17⅛ | 4⅝ | Orosur Mining♦ | 4⅝ | + ⅛ | ... | -6.9 |
| 22¼ | 12¾ | Pan African Res♦ | 17⅝ | − ¼ | ... | 5.7 |
| 140¼ | 17⅛ | Pantheon Res♦ | 17⅛ | − ⅞ | ... | ... |
| 79 | 21¾ | Parkmead Grp♦ | 21¾ | − ¼ | ... | -1.8 |
| ⅝ | ⅜ | Pathfinder Mins♦ | ½ | ... | ... | -4.1 |
| 120 | 66⅞ | Petra Diamonds | 67 | + ¾ | ... | 2.2 |
| 3¾ | 1¼ | Petrel Resources♦ | 1¼ | ... | ... | -6.7 |
| 6½ | 1⅝ | Petro Matad♦ | 6½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 157⅞ | 46 | Petrofac | 66¼ | − ⅞ | ... | -1.7 |
| 1⅛ | ... | Petroneft Res♦ | ... | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| 2½ | ⅞ | Petropavlovsk# | 1⅛ | − ⅛ | ... | 1.6 |
| 7½ | 3¾ | Phoenix Global♦ | 6½ | + ¼ | ... | -1.6 |
| 4½ | 1⅝ | Plexus Holdings♦ | 2⅝ | ... | ... | -0.6 |
| 350 | 168 | Polymetal Intl | 261 | + 8¾ | ... | ... |
| 698 | 499 | Porvair‡ | 630 | ... | ... | 24.2 |
| 19¼ | 3¾ | Prospex Energy♦ | 8¾ | − ½ | ... | ... |
| 14⅝ | 8½ | Proton Motor Power S♦ | 10¼ | ... | ... | -1.8 |
| 4 | 1¾ | Providence Res♦ | 3¼ | ... | ... | 29.0 |
| 2¾ | 1 | Quadrise Fuels Intl♦ | 1½ | − ⅛ | ... | -5.8 |
| 27¼ | 2 | Rambler Met&Min♦# | 5⅜ | ... | ... | 0.1 |
| ⅜ | ⅛ | Reabold Resources♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -2.7 |
| ⅝ | ⅛ | Red Rock Res♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -0.8 |
| 6874 | 4698¼ | Rio Tinto Ltd | 5776½ | − 18 | ... | 6.0 |
| 6377 | 4486 | **Rio Tinto** | 4970½ | + 54 | ... | 5.2 |
| 41⅛ | 19⅞ | San Leon Energy♦ | 27½ | + ½ | ... | 10.3 |
| ½ | ⅛ | Scirocco Energy♦ | ⅜ | ... | ... | ... |
| 47 | 22½ | Serabi Gold♦ | 32 | ... | ... | 4.3 |
| 450 | 207½ | Serica Energy♦ | 225 | − 3½ | ... | ... |
| 13½ | 8½ | Shanta Gold♦‡ | 11¼ | − ⅜ | ... | 7.1 |
| 2604½ | 1936⅜ | **Shell** | 2396½ | + 12 | ... | 12.6 |
| 2⅞ | ⅞ | Sound Energy♦ | 1¾ | ... | ... | 11.5 |
| ⅛ | ... | Sunrise Resources♦ | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ¼ | ... | Tertiary Minerals♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -3.9 |
| ⅝ | ⅛ | Thor Mining♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | -1.7 |
| 5335¾ | 3900⅝ | Total Eng SE | 4795½ | − 7¾ | ... | 10.9 |
| ¼ | ... | Tower Resources♦ | ... | ... | ... | -1.0 |
| 57⅛ | 22¾ | Tullow Oil | 22¾ | + ⅛ | ... | 2.2 |
| ⅛ | ... | UK Oil & Gas♦ | ... | ... | ... | -2.4 |
| 418 | 135 | URU Metals♦ | 150 | ... | ... | 4.8 |
| 1¼ | ⅛ | Vast Res♦ | ¾ | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| ... | ... | Victoria Oil&Gas♦# | 3¾ | ... | ... | -1.8 |
| ... | ... | W Resources♦# | 2⅝ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| 3¾ | 2⅛ | Westmount Engy♦ | 2⅛ | ... | ... | -0.4 |
| 251⅝ | 104½ | Wood Grp (J) | 135 | − 4 | ... | -5.5 |
| 6⅝ | ⅜ | Woodbois♦ | ⅝ | ... | ... | 2.4 |
| 5½ | 1¼ | Xtract Resources♦ | 1⅝ | − ⅛ | ... | -2.9 |
| 7¼ | 4 | Zephyr Energy♦ | 4⅛ | + ⅛ | ... | -5.3 |

## Professional & support services

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5090 | 2240 | 4imprint Grp‡ | 4525 | + 50 | ... | 76.3 |
| 555 | 460 | Andrews Sykes♦ | 537½ | + 2½ | ... | 17.1 |
| 5874 | 3359 | **Ashtead** | 4799 | + 71 | ... | 23.3 |
| 23 | 1 | Asimilar Group♦ | 1¼ | + ¼ | ... | ... |
| 133½ | 54 | AssetCo♦ | 54 | ... | ... | 0.3 |
| 53½ | 38½ | Avisen♦ | 50½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 148 | 117 | Begbies Traynor♦ | 128¾ | − 1½ | ... | ... |
| 207 | 155 | Blancco Tech♦ | 172½ | − 1 | ... | 61.8 |
| 3225 | 2575 | **Bunzl** | 3162 | + 4 | ... | 23.9 |
| 42⅝ | 22⅝ | Capita | 31⅞ | ... | ... | 2.4 |
| 45 | 36 | CEPS♦ | 39 | + 3 | ... | -8.8 |
| 150 | 105½ | Christie Group♦ | 150 | ... | ... | 63.8 |
| 2214 | 1641 | **Compass** | 2214 | + 14 | ... | 53.8 |
| 252 | 97 | CPPGroup♦ | 203 | − 1 | ... | ... |
| 77 | 47¼ | Croma Security♦ | 47½ | − ¼ | ... | 6.8 |
| 6268 | 4030 | **DCC** | 4858 | + 73 | ... | 16.0 |
| 114½ | 39½ | De La Rue | 39½ | − 1¼ | ... | 5.2 |
| 3012 | 2158 | Diploma | 3012 | + 58 | ... | 53.8 |
| 914 | 597 | Discoverie | 826 | + 15 | ... | 67.7 |
| 34½ | 23½ | Driver Group♦ | 33 | ... | ... | 15.7 |
| 325½ | 175⅛ | Essentra | 194⅜ | + ⅜ | ... | 21.8 |
| 3160 | 2285 | **Experian** | 2735 | − 5 | ... | 35.0 |
| 12380 | 8680 | Ferguson | 11680 | − 25 | ... | 17.2 |
| 270 | 215 | FIH Group♦ | 270 | ... | ... | ... |
| 11 | 5¼ | Grafenia♦ | 10 | ... | ... | -7.4 |
| 588 | 317 | Hargeaves Serv♦ | 392½ | − 4 | ... | 4.1 |
| 735 | 450 | Impellam Grp♦ | 652½ | ... | ... | 35.6 |
| 24⅝ | 4 | Ince G♦# | 5⅛ | ... | ... | 2.9 |
| 4985 | 3619 | **Intertek** | 4040 | − 49 | ... | 22.7 |
| 251⅜ | 115⅜ | IWG | 149⅜ | − 1 | ... | -5.7 |
| 125⅜ | 77 | Johnson Srvce♦ | 119 | − 4⅛ | ... | 74.3 |
| 181½ | 106 | Journeo♦ | 169½ | − 6 | ... | 38.0 |
| 79¼ | 56½ | Kier Gp | 77⅞ | + ⅛ | ... | 7.6 |
| 1400 | 1080 | Latham (J)♦ | 1235 | + 15 | ... | 6.7 |
| 1032½ | 695 | Lok'n Store♦‡ | 842 | − 1 | ... | 25.5 |
| 3850 | 2300 | Lon Security♦ | 2750 | + 300 | ... | 15.1 |
| 395 | 220 | LSL Prop Services‡ | 290 | + 11 | ... | 8.0 |
| 125½ | 86 | Macfarlane‡ | 110 | − ½ | ... | 12.7 |
| 325 | 90 | Maintel Hldgs♦ | 105 | ... | ... | 3.2 |
| 2200 | 8¼ | Malvern Intl♦ | 16½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 242 | 182 | Mears Group | 241½ | − 2 | ... | 21.0 |
| 608 | 590 | Menzies (John) | 607 | − 1 | ... | 48.0 |
| 94⅜ | 52 | Mitie Gp | 94⅜ | − ½ | ... | 47.2 |
| 13¾ | 3¾ | MobilityOne♦ | 5½ | ... | ... | 4.0 |
| 56½ | 25 | Newmark Sec♦ | 56 | − ½ | ... | ... |
| 6¾ | 3½ | Norm Broadbent♦ | 5¼ | ... | ... | -9.9 |
| 61½ | 37 | Northern Bear♦ | 50 | ... | ... | 5.1 |
| 286 | 217 | NWF Grp♦ | 262½ | + 5 | ... | ... |
| 491½ | 362⅛ | PageGroup | 443⅜ | + 2⅛ | ... | 11.9 |
| 68 | 46 | PCI-PAL♦ | 51½ | − ½ | ... | ... |
| 12 | 7 | Petards♦ | 7 | − ¼ | ... | 12.7 |
| 26½ | 13 | PHSC♦ | 15½ | ... | ... | 28.1 |
| 2⅜ | ⅝ | PowerHouse Egy♦ | ⅝ | ... | ... | -1.2 |
| 98 | 61 | Record | 86⅜ | + ⅜ | ... | 23.7 |
| 437½ | 283½ | Redde Northgate | 386 | ... | ... | 9.7 |
| 750 | 555 | Renew Hldgs♦ | 734 | − 23 | ... | 18.1 |
| 851 | 489 | Renewi | 612 | + 6 | ... | 12.9 |
| 647⅜ | 445 | **Rentokil**‡ | 647⅜ | − 1¾ | ... | 45.9 |
| 466 | 269 | Restore♦ | 269 | − 9 | ... | 32.0 |
| 600 | 331½ | Ricardo | 572 | − 2 | ... | 51.0 |
| 600 | 408 | Robert Walters‡ | 419 | − 2 | ... | 9.5 |
| 20 | 11½ | Roebuck Food Grp♦ | 15 | ... | ... | 2.2 |
| 239 | 95⅜ | RPS Group | 221 | − 1 | ... | ... |
| 1159 | 812 | **RS Group** | 845¾ | − ⅛ | ... | 21.4 |
| 24 | 16 | RTC Group♦ | 17 | ... | ... | ... |
| 442½ | 238½ | RWS Hldgs♦ | 247⅛ | + ⅛ | ... | 22.6 |
| 440 | 365 | Science Group♦ | 404 | ... | ... | 18.6 |
| 188¼ | 145⅞ | Serco‡ | 149⅜ | − ⅞ | ... | 6.1 |
| 57½ | 27½ | Smiths News | 51½ | + ½ | ... | 5.0 |
| 3596 | 2452 | **Smurfit Kappa** | 2938 | − 56 | ... | 13.4 |
| 50½ | 32½ | Staffline Gp♦ | 39¾ | − ⅛ | ... | 30.5 |
| 484½ | 317½ | SThree‡ | 403 | + 4 | ... | 13.0 |
| 137½ | 95 | Synectics♦ | 107½ | − 2½ | ... | ... |
| 30 | 21⅝ | Thruvision Group♦ | 25½ | ... | ... | -9.2 |
| 94 | 35 | Tribal♦ | 39⅞ | ... | ... | 12.4 |
| 89 | 49 | Vianet♦ | 77½ | + ½ | ... | ... |
| 980 | 615 | Vp | 655 | + 20 | ... | 16.1 |
| 2⅜ | 1 | Westminster♦ | 1⅛ | ... | ... | -1.4 |

## Real estate

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 164¾ | 95½ | Shaftesbury Cap | 118½ | + ¼ | ... | 34.8 |

## Retailing

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 81¼ | 37⅞ | AO World | 69½ | − 2⅛ | ... | ... |
| 503⅛ | 295½ | **B&M European** | 489¼ | − 2 | ... | 11.3 |
| 42⅝ | 20¼ | Brown (N)♦ | 26 | ... | ... | 7.6 |
| 112½ | 40⅜ | Card Factory | 98½ | − ⅝ | ... | ... |
| 2162 | 1549 | CVS Group♦ | 2162 | + 18 | ... | 60.5 |
| 194 | 104¾ | DFS Furn‡ | 122⅜ | − 1½ | ... | 6.5 |
| 1275 | 670½ | Dunelm | 1149 | ... | ... | 15.4 |
| 949½ | 600 | **Frasers Group** | 767 | ... | ... | 34.0 |
| 2904 | 1673 | Greggs‡ | 2780 | + 28 | ... | 24.3 |
| 229⅜ | 124⅝ | Halfords | 202⅜ | + ⅜ | ... | 6.7 |
| 743½ | 480⅞ | Howden Joinery‡ | 679⅛ | − 5⅜ | ... | 12.8 |
| 941 | 666 | Inchcape‡ | 783½ | + 2½ | ... | 26.4 |
| 4¼ | 1⅝ | IQ-AI | 2¾ | + ¼ | ... | -8.1 |
| 186⅝ | 89⅛ | **JD Sports** | 163 | − 7¼ | ... | 19.6 |
| 291½ | 203 | **Kingfisher** | 241⅜ | − ⅞ | ... | 6.0 |
| 94¼ | 61½ | Lookers‡ | 83 | − ½ | ... | 5.3 |
| 169¼ | 93⅛ | Marks & Spencer | 163¾ | − 1 | ... | ... |
| 11⅛ | 5¾ | Mothercare♦ | 5¾ | ... | ... | -3.5 |
| 371 | 75½ | Naked Wines♦ | 105½ | − 2⅜ | ... | ... |
| 7076 | 4383 | **Next** | 6650 | − 92 | ... | 12.6 |
| 952½ | 393 | **Ocado** | 410¼ | − 3⅞ | ... | ... |
| 28⅜ | 14⅞ | Pendragon | 17¾ | + ⅛ | ... | 5.5 |
| 393 | 257¾ | Pets at Home | 382 | − 6¾ | ... | 15.5 |
| 227⅜ | 72⅞ | Saga | 112⅜ | + 1 | ... | ... |
| 289½ | 169⅞ | **Sainsbury's** | 283¼ | − 2⅛ | ... | 23.8 |
| 1714 | 1132½ | WH Smith | 1644 | − 13 | ... | ... |
| 27¼ | 14¼ | Sosandar♦ | 24½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 1⅝ | 1¼ | Stanley Gbbns♦ | 1½ | ... | ... | -1.6 |
| ... | ... | Studio Retail# | 115 | − 2½ | ... | 2.4 |
| 145¾ | 69½ | Ted Baker | 109¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 286⅝ | 199⅛ | **Tesco**‡ | 269¼ | − 1½ | ... | 13.7 |
| 54 | 38 | Topps Tiles | 50¼ | − ⅞ | ... | 9.1 |

## Technology

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 108 | 62½ | Access Intell♦ | 78 | ... | ... | ... |
| 142½ | 23 | Aferian plc♦ | 23½ | − 4½ | ... | 4.2 |
| 186 | 126 | Alfa Financial | 144½ | − 2 | ... | 22.6 |
| 20¼ | 8¼ | Allied Minds | 13¾ | + 3⅛ | ... | -1.2 |
| 430 | 321 | Aptitude Software | 345 | − 20 | ... | 38.7 |
| 265 | 126½ | Bango♦ | 187½ | − 2½ | ... | ... |
| 45⅝ | 21 | BATM Adv Coms | 25⅜ | − ⅜ | ... | 10.6 |
| 26½ | 14¼ | Berkeley Res | 20 | ... | ... | -8.5 |
| 21½ | 6½ | Blackbird♦ | 6½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 1¼ | ¾ | CloudCoCo Group♦ | 1 | ... | ... | -2.5 |
| 2624 | 1810 | Computacenter | 2436 | − 10 | ... | 15.1 |
| 90½ | 65½ | Concurrent Tech♦ | 68½ | + ½ | ... | 16.2 |
| 13¼ | 5¾ | Corero♦ | 6½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 2250 | 1080 | Craneware♦ | 1540 | − 50 | ... | 70.2 |
| 3¼ | 1¾ | Crimson Tide♦ | 3 | ... | ... | 20.3 |
| 24 | 11¼ | CyanConn Hldgs♦ | 16¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 276½ | 190 | D4t4 Solutions♦ | 195 | − 2½ | ... | 23.1 |
| ⅛ | ... | DeepMatter Gp♦ | ... | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 22½ | 13 | Dillistone Group♦ | 19½ | ... | ... | -5.6 |
| ¾ | ⅛ | EQTEC♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -2.4 |
| 976 | 599 | FDM Group | 649 | + 10 | ... | 22.5 |
| 16¾ | 9 | Filtronic♦ | 11½ | + ⅜ | ... | 31.3 |
| 2450 | 1230 | First Derivts♦ | 1786 | − 4 | ... | ... |
| 647 | 281½ | GB Group♦ | 302 | − 6 | ... | 23.0 |
| 180½ | 136 | GreshamTech‡ | 147½ | + 1½ | ... | ... |
| 91 | 24¼ | Ilika♦ | 48 | ... | ... | ... |
| 132½ | 79½ | Ingenta♦ | 109½ | − 1 | ... | 64.0 |
| 77 | 38 | Intercede♦ | 53 | − 4 | ... | 18.2 |
| 200 | 112 | Iomart♦ | 166¾ | − 3 | ... | 18.3 |
| 59⅞ | 23½ | IQE♦ | 23½ | − ¼ | ... | ... |
| 152½ | 112½ | K3 Business Tch♦ | 112½ | ... | ... | -1.9 |
| 1900½ | 1038⅛ | LG Electronics | 1459⅞ | + 24 | ... | 3.8 |
| ¼ | ⅛ | Location Sciences♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -2.7 |
| 532 | 256¼ | Micro Focus Intl | 532 | + ½ | ... | -5.6 |
| 70½ | 45 | MTI Wireless♦ | 50½ | + 1½ | ... | 16.8 |
| 55¾ | 17¼ | Nanoco Gp | 17¾ | − ⅛ | ... | ... |
| 108½ | 62½ | Netcall♦ | 99½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 52½ | 35 | Northamber♦ | 37½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 25¾ | 10¼ | Online Blockchain♦ | 12½ | − ¼ | ... | -6.5 |
| 112½ | 76½ | Oxford Metrics♦ | 92 | + 1 | ... | 40.0 |
| 9 | 4½ | Parity♦ | 4½ | ... | ... | -6.5 |
| 41½ | 28½ | Pennant Intl♦ | 40½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 634½ | 390¾ | Playtech | 634½ | + 1½ | ... | 6.6 |
| 394⅛ | 322 | QinetiQ | 372⅛ | − 2⅛ | ... | 29.0 |
| 150 | 20½ | RM | 85¾ | + ¼ | ... | 17.1 |
| 842¾ | 595½ | **Sage** | 842¾ | + 21¾ | ... | 32.3 |
| 8¼ | 5¼ | Seeing Machines♦ | 5¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 139 | 50 | Shearwater Grp♦ | 62½ | ... | ... | 38.7 |
| 72½ | 31½ | Smartspace S'ware♦ | 45½ | ... | ... | -4.7 |
| 1441 | 1071 | Softcat‡ | 1315 | − 4 | ... | 25.7 |
| 286⅛ | 168 | Spirent Comms | 181¾ | + 2⅞ | ... | 16.9 |
| 54 | 24¾ | SRT Marine♦ | 46 | + 1½ | ... | ... |
| 629⅜ | 414⅞ | Tele. Ericsson | 414⅞ | − 1⅜ | ... | 7.5 |
| 102½ | 72½ | Touchstar♦ | 97½ | + 2½ | ... | ... |
| 1047½ | 860 | Tracsis♦ | 990 | ... | ... | ... |
| 20½ | 12¼ | Trakm8♦ | 16 | − 1 | ... | ... |
| 160 | 81 | Triad Grp | 160 | + 5 | ... | 17.5 |
| 1380 | 227 | Wandisco♦# | 1310 | ... | ... | ... |
| 916 | 415 | Water Intel♦ | 442½ | − 7½ | ... | 24.3 |
| 236 | 144½ | Xaar | 179 | − 1 | ... | ... |
| 8¼ | ⅛ | Yourgene♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 207½ | 101½ | Zoo Digital♦ | 133½ | ... | ... | ... |

## Telecoms

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 200½ | 100 | AdEPT Technology♦‡ | 200½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 170⅞ | 104½ | **Airtel Africa** | 113½ | − 2⅜ | ... | 10.1 |
| 196½ | 112 | **BT Group** | 148 | − 2⅛ | ... | 14.3 |
| 90⅝ | 53½ | Currys plc | 55 | − ½ | ... | 2.5 |
| 1236 | 1012 | Gamma Comms♦ | 1154 | + 14 | ... | 20.9 |
| 144¼ | 91¾ | Helios Towers | 91¾ | − ½ | ... | -8.2 |
| 2215½ | 1103½ | Just Eat T'away | 1474 | + 15 | ... | -3.1 |
| ¼ | ... | Mobile Streams♦ | ... | ... | ... | -1.5 |
| 2¼ | ⅝ | Mobile Tornado♦ | 1¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 2500 | 1570 | Telecom Plus | 1754 | − 68 | ... | 44.9 |
| 131⅜ | 82¼ | **Vodafone** | 82¼ | − ⅞ | ... | ... |

## Transport

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 340 | 234 | Braemar Ship | 290 | − 8 | ... | 9.6 |
| 535⅛ | 285 | EasyJet | 520⅜ | + 14½ | ... | -3.2 |
| 10⅞ | 4½ | Esken Limited | 5⅛ | ... | ... | -0.2 |
| 139½ | 93½ | FirstGroup | 117¾ | + ½ | ... | 28.0 |
| 407 | 251 | Fisher (James) | 370 | − 8 | ... | -6.7 |
| 173½ | 93⅝ | **International Airlines** | 159¼ | + 3½ | ... | -3.5 |
| 343¾ | 183½ | IDS | 222⅛ | − 9⅜ | ... | 2.5 |
| 439¼ | 310¾ | Irish Cont Uts | 404 | ... | ... | ... |
| 1381½ | 667¾ | Jet2♦ | 1293 | + 29 | ... | -6.9 |
| 272½ | 115¼ | Natl Express | 118½ | + ⅜ | ... | -7.0 |
| 1050 | 820 | Ocean Wilson | 910 | + 12 | ... | 4.6 |
| 105 | 104 | Stagecoach | 104⅝ | ... | ... | 14.7 |
| 24 | 19½ | Sutton Harbour♦ | 22 | − 1 | ... | ... |
| 416 | 192⅜ | Wincanton | 214 | + 1½ | ... | 5.8 |
| 3158 | 1357½ | Wizz Air | 3158 | + 79 | ... | -7.1 |

## Utilities

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 119¾ | 67¼ | **Centrica** | 119¾ | ... | ... | 12.1 |
| 258 | 189½ | ContourGlobal | 251 | + ½ | ... | 28.3 |
| 812 | 473⅜ | Drax Group‡ | 613⅜ | + 11½ | ... | 45.4 |
| 582½ | 457 | Jersey Electricity | 477 | + 11 | ... | 9.0 |
| 1245½ | 858⅜ | **National Grid** | 1140½ | − 21 | ... | 26.5 |
| 9¾ | 5⅝ | OPG Power♦ | 7¾ | − ⅛ | ... | 5.1 |
| 1099 | 755 | Pennon | 841½ | − 15 | ... | 60.9 |
| ⅝ | ¼ | Rurelec♦ | ½ | ... | ... | -0.4 |
| 3148 | 2213 | **Severn Trent** | 2879 | − 49 | ... | ... |
| 1920 | 1428 | **SSE** | 1868 | − 24½ | ... | 7.3 |
| 1145 | 828⅛ | **United Utilities** | 1063 | − 16 | ... | 97.5 |

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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**Fun-loving aristocrat and chatelaine of Palace House**
Fiona, Lady Montagu of Beaulieu
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# Register

Obituaries

# SP Hinduja

## Eldest of four billionaire brothers who avoided the limelight until his name became indelibly linked with Peter Mandelson's resignation

When a guest was leaving one of Srichand Hinduja's Indian homes, a family member guided him toward a cupboard by the front door. "For you," he said, presenting a leather briefcase followed by a silver cigarette lighter, a silk scarf and a book of Indian paintings. "I can't take all this," the visitor politely protested. "Please don't offend us," his host said, "it is our custom."

Bountiful hospitality was both a Hinduja characteristic and a corporate tactic. At the Diwali parties he threw at Alexandra Palace in north London, or his office on Haymarket, guests included Margaret Thatcher, Sir John Major, Sir Tony Blair, Michael (now Lord) Heseltine, ambassadors, bankers and business leaders. Yet he was largely unknown to the British public until questions raised over his passport application led to Peter Mandelson's resignation from the cabinet in 2001.

"It makes no difference to me who is in power," the diminutive Hinduja once said in his gruff north Indian accent. "We know politicians and we give money generously if it is for good, charitable causes, but never to a political party. We go to see the leaders to reduce conflicts and so help alleviate poverty. When poverty reduces, our market share increases."

At one Diwali celebration, a goodwill message was read out from the former US president George HW Bush. When invited to lunch by the Queen, it was said that the teetotal and vegetarian Hinduja took his own food.

He was the patriarch of a family that, he said, wanted "an important role in fostering understanding between India and other countries. We are following the Vedic culture that the world is a family and that if everything is in good shape, then every businessman has a cut of the cake." Srichand and his three brothers — Gopichand, Prakash and Ashok — were known by their first two initials, SP, GP, PP and AP, the P in each case standing for Parmanand, their father's name. They built buses and lorries in Yorkshire and India, and traded oil, chemicals, fertilisers, lead, zinc, iron ore, dried fruit, tea, sugar and property; they ran hotels and healthcare firms. The family controlled companies registered in Panama, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Singapore, Switzerland and the UK (in tax-friendly territories that often conferred anonymity).

In the 1980s the brothers bought Ashok Leyland from British Leyland and Gulf Oil from Chevron. They launched banks in Switzerland and India in the 1990s. Documentary evidence suggested that Srichand and Gopichand were also involved in the arms trade. They were subjected to years of inquiries by India's Central Bureau of Investigation and in 1987 Hinduja executives admitted paying £30 million to middlemen in connection with the sale of 410 howitzer guns to the Indian Army. The brothers always denied any wrongdoing.



The Hindujas, particularly Srichand, made a point of fostering cultural relations. He was involved in the burgeoning Bollywood film industry, making millions from the overseas rights to the blockbuster *Sangam*. He encouraged the family's banks to lend to customers from other cultures. From the Indian artist, MF Husain, he commissioned ten paintings aimed at capturing the essence of leading religions. "This was my brother's concept," Ashok said. "He wanted paintings that would speak of religious tolerance."

The Sunday Times Rich List 2022 valued the family at £28.4 billion, making them the richest in Britain, with £5 billion more than the next wealthiest, the family of the entrepreneur Sir James Dyson. It was impossible to tell how much each of the brothers was worth because they deliberately held their assets mutually. "We are a family business," Srichand said. "All assets are held in common ownership, nobody owns anything individually, no 'this is mine, that is yours' business. All the houses, all the cars belong to everybody. There is one kitty."

That unravelled, however, in 2015 to produce a lengthy legal dispute. Although it was commonly claimed that the brothers shared a 30-bedroom house at Carlton House Terrace, a short walk from Buckingham Palace, Srichand and his wife Madhu apparently never lived there. Instead, they occupied a three-bedroom flat across the street. And, because of the legal quarrel, in recent years they had received no income from the family's central funds.

A 2020 UK court judgment revealed the extent of the dispute. Srichand had written to his brothers six years earlier, declaring that any asset in the sole name of one of the four would belong to all of them, and that each would appoint the others as executors of their wills. Yet in 2015 Srichand tried to annul that letter so that he had full control of the family's Swiss bank. As he was by then suffering from Lewy body disease, a form of dementia, his younger daughter, Vinoo, was authorised to act on his behalf. There were also legal proceedings in Switzerland and Jersey.

His brothers objected to Vinoo's involvement and contested the attempted annulment. They said: "It is very unfortunate that these proceedings are taking place as they go against our founder's and family's values and principles that have stood for many decades."

It emerged last November that the family had reached a truce in the legal feud earlier in the year, but details were not made public.

Srichand Parmanand Hinduja was born in 1935 in Shikarpur, a village in the Sindh province of what is now Pakistan. He was the second of five sons of Parmanand, a merchant, and Jamuna. The eldest son, Girdhar, died of typhoid in the 1960s. Srichand attended Davar's College of Commerce and Rishi Dayaram and Seth Hassaram National and Seth Wassiamull Assomull Science College, usually called RD National College, both in Mumbai. As soon as he left, in 1952, he started working for his father. Parmanand traded goods in Sindh before expanding to Mumbai and the Middle East after the First World War. In the 1950s, a fashion for trilby hats swept Tehran, the Iranian capital; he made a fortune by importing them cheaply from India. When he died in 1971 his sons took over the business.

Srichand and Madhu had two daughters and a son, Dharam. Their elder daughter, Shanu, married Suren Mukhi,

**They were the richest family in Britain, with a fortune of £28.4 billion**

the son of another London-based Sindhi trading family. Vinoo is on the board of the PD Hinduja National Hospital and Medical Research Centre in Mumbai. Madhu died, aged 82, in January.

The families of the four brothers would meet in Mumbai at the end of each year (Prakash settled in Geneva and Ashok took up residence in Mumbai). "For me, the family comes first and then everything else, including business," Srichand said.

In 1992 Dharam died, a few days after suffering severe burns from self-immolation in a Mauritius hotel room. He had made a suicide pact with his wife, Ninotchka, who was found alive. Dharam had sought his parents' blessing for the marriage, after Ninotchka had converted from Roman Catholicism to Hinduism. They had married in secret months earlier, at Chelsea Register Office.

For years afterwards, Srichand prayed daily for Dharam at the Radha-Krishna temple in Soho, London, and established research institutes in his memory. His lack of a male heir became a factor in the legal dispute with his brothers.

His attempts to obtain a British passport drew him into political controversy. Foreign Office documents showed that his original application was rejected in 1991, partly because officials believed that criminal investigations against the family in India meant "it would be difficult to satisfy the requirement of being of good character".

He tried again in 1999, supported by the former prime minister Sir Edward Heath, the Liberal Democrat leader Sir Paddy Ashdown, and the former Labour cabinet minister Jack Cunningham. Peter Mandelson, then the trade and industry secretary, called Srichand "an above-average risk". He wrote: "If Mr SP Hinduja wishes to pursue his citizenship application he can do so without further involvement or commendation from me."

Two years later it was alleged that Mandelson had intervened to help Hinduja secure a British passport, in exchange for his £1 million sponsorship of London's Millennium Dome, now the $O_2$. "This is absolutely false," Hinduja said. "No one had approached me in connection with British citizenship. I was a catalyst in the creation of the Dome. I believe I have not acted improperly in my application for a passport." Nevertheless, Blair required Mandelson, who also protested his innocence, to resign from the government (for a second time) in 2001 over the affair. An inquiry subsequently cleared Mandelson of any wrongdoing.

Among many charitable donations, the family's Hinduja Foundation built a £15 million hospital for the poor in Mumbai and set up a scholarship fund for Indians to study at Cambridge. They contributed substantially to the Baps Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden, northwest London, one of Europe's biggest Hindu temples.

"They were a classic Hindi family," one Indian observer said. "They were riven with internal divisions and desperately trying to preserve their cultural identity, while at the same time moving in a world which inevitably undermines that."

**Srichand Hinduja, businessman, was born on November 28, 1935. He died of complications from Lewy body dementia on May 17, 2023, aged 87**

COURTESY OF HINDUJA GROUP; MADAN ARORA





**SP Hinduja, seated, with his brothers Gopichand, Prakash and Ashok Hinduja in 2010 in Mumbai, where the family met at the end of every year; with Margaret Thatcher and his wife, Madhu, in 1999; and two years ago, also in Mumbai**

Register

# John Bowler

## Army officer who came from a family of hatmakers and won the MC for leading a daring patrol in the Korean War

When John Bowler was commissioned as a National Service officer in June 1951, aged 19, and joined 1st Battalion The Welch Regiment (1 Welch) in Colchester, he expected to face the Chinese People's Liberation Army in Hong Kong.

The battalion had been notified of a coming garrison duty tour in the colony, taking their families, the mess silver and the regimental mascot, Taffy IX, a goat from the royal herd.

Soon after Bowler reported to Colchester, however, 1 Welch were ordered to Korea instead to relieve the Gloucestershire Regiment, who had been almost wiped out in a heroic stand at the battle of the Imjin river in April. The commanding officer of the Welch immediately inquired of the War Office whether Korean veterinary regulations permitted the landing of the goat.

In 1950, communist North Korea had invaded the Republic of South Korea. The UN security council mandated the United States to lead a coalition of the willing to repel them. The War Office and the cabinet were at first reluctant to take part: the generals were concerned that there was a communist insurgency in Malaya to defeat, and the ministers that the UK was broke.

"Korea is a rather distant obligation," the cabinet secretary said, to which the prime minister, Clement Attlee, replied: "Distant, yes, but nonetheless an obligation."

Under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, the hastily assembled UN force, including a British brigade, managed to push the North Koreans back over the border with China, the 38th Parallel, but then the PLA intervened. By the new year the UN force was back south of the 38th Parallel again. A renewed UN offensive in early spring recovered ground, but a PLA counter-offensive in April led to stalemate, with both sides digging in.

When 1 Welch arrived in early November, Taffy led them down the gangway. Within days, Bowler and his platoon of 40 men were in the line with the Commonwealth Division in mountainous terrain and appalling weather. The divisional commander, Major-General (later Field Marshal Sir) James Cassels, a Seaforth Highlander who had commanded a brigade in northwest Europe throughout the winter of 1944-45, was determined, in the words of the official history, to keep his division "warm and fit in the defensive line, prerequisites of alertness and morale in the sub-zero temperatures". Active operations to maintain offensive-mindedness would

### He helped the push for a Korean War memorial on Victoria Embankment

be "confined to patrolling, harassing and the odd minor raid".

In early December, in the words of the recommendation for a gallantry award, Bowler led a daylight patrol with the object of observing and reporting on enemy positions and movement. "During the afternoon he came under heavy mortar fire, and was shelled by an SP [self-propelled] gun. He refused to move to a safer area, and, in spite of the lack of cover, he continued to try and locate the gun and mortar positions. Later he did locate them and, while still under fire, he directed the artillery on them until they were both silenced."

A few days later, he led another daylight patrol to a hill that had been occupied by the enemy at night, while a


Bowler fought in the Korean war at 19

patrol from the battalion reoccupied it by day. The reoccupation by daylight was always hazardous as there was no approach other than up the very steep southern slope, and there was no guarantee, until the patrol reached the top, that the enemy had evacuated it after the previous night.

In all, he would lead 14 such patrols, encountering the PLA on eight occasions. Four of his platoon would be killed and 15 wounded, several of them twice, including Bowler.

By spring, Cassels had become concerned that the force commander's insistence on raiding to take prisoners for unit identification was leading to "unwonted casualties". In one four-day period, his division lost 14 killed among 76 casualties, without bringing back a single live prisoner.

One night in May, Bowler was in command of another fighting patrol. Part of the approach to his objective was along 800 yards of a feature that had not been reconnoitred, but where enemy opposition might be expected. When the patrol got within 200 yards of their objective Bowler halted it and, with one man, crawled forward over open country in moonlight to make a closer recce of the objective. When he got to within 20 yards he led a charge that took the enemy by surprise.

After a time it became apparent that the enemy were in platoon strength on the objective and were also reinforcing, so Bowler ordered his patrol to withdraw. The enemy came after them in large numbers and tried to cut them off. According to a subsequent report: "2/Lieut Bowler's task was not an easy one as his objective was some 3,000 yards from his forward defensive lines, and some 600 yards deeper in enemy territory than any patrol had penetrated for some five months."

Cassels approved the award of an immediate Military Cross for "great coolness under fire, which, allied to his initiative, his sound judgment and his tactical ability, inspired and set a splendid example to all those who led".

John Leslie Bowler was born in Surrey in 1932, an elder child and only son. His father, Captain Leslie Bowler, had won the MC and bar (a second award) and two Mentions in Dispatches with the Queen's Regiment on the Western Front, and been twice wounded. John was educated at Cranleigh, where he played rugby for the Colts XV and represented his house at cricket, fives, athletics and boxing, despite being well over six foot but weighing only ten stone.

At 16, having matriculated, Bowler left school to join the eponymous family company of hatmakers. The maturity gained at work rather than in the sixth form evidently gained him selection for officer training at once.

On leaving the army in late 1952, when the Welch moved at last to Hong Kong (where Taffy IX died the following year), Bowler joined Allardyce Palmer, the London advertising agency, and later ran his own advertising and marketing agency.

In 1961 he married Gillian Fielder, whom he met at a cocktail party at the Hyde Park Hotel thrown by Associated Television. "Bowler" and "Fielder" provided ample material for the best man's speech.

Gillian Bowler survives him with their son, Colin, a classic car restorer, and two daughters: Jackie, a project manager in the US; and Kathryn, a magazine publisher in France.

In 1959, Bowler joined the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers, becoming Master in 1981, as had both his grandfather and great-grandfather, and with his wife wrote a history of the company. In retirement, he lived in Oxfordshire, where he embraced local affairs and cast the occasional fly.

Having joined the British Korean Veterans Association, in 2014 he was instrumental in getting "the forgotten war" duly commemorated with a memorial on the Victoria Embankment, for which he wrote the inscription. It begins "The Korean War was the first UN action against aggression" and ends, in a nod to Attlee: "A distant obligation honourably discharged."

**John Bowler MC, Korean War veteran, was born on May 26, 1932. He died on March 19, 2023, aged 90**

# Fiona, Lady Montagu of Beaulieu

## Second wife of the car-obsessed Lord Montagu who helped with running the National Motor Museum on his estate

As the chatelaine of Palace House on the 9,000-acre Beaulieu estate in Hampshire, Fiona, Lady Montagu shared her home with up to 400,000 visitors a year. They came to look around the 80-room manor house — the ancestral seat for almost 500 years of the family of her husband Edward, 3rd Lord Montagu — and to visit the attractions in its grounds that included the National Motor Museum.

Established in the 1950s to help pay for the upkeep of the estate, the museum was a masterstroke by her husband that enabled Beaulieu to outstrip Longleat, Woburn Abbey and Chatsworth in tourist numbers. At the peak of Beaulieu's pulling power, it was reported that only the Tower of London among British historical attractions had more paying visitors. However, there was, as Lady Montagu discovered, a price to pay in lack of privacy and in the stress of keeping the enterprise going. "I live in the most visited private home in the world," she said. "It's a strange life when your home is not your own."

She once entered her bedroom to find a little girl sitting at her dressing table, brushing her hair. "That's when I decided that my bedroom should be out of bounds to visitors", she said.

She valiantly supported her husband's commercial endeavours, but running the estate took its toll and in 1990 she suffered a breakdown. "I had a complete collapse because I was burning the candle at both ends," she said. Her husband sent her to a naturopathic clinic in Canada to recover, although the pressures of running Beaulieu resulted in two further breakdowns. At times of

ALAMY


Montagu on her wedding day; she had a lifelong love of Elvis Presley

stress, her coping mechanism was to abandon the rolling acres of Hampshire for a flat in London, prompting friends to joke that she was "the only woman who goes to London to get away from it all". She also turned to new age cures and philosophies and described herself as "a student of metaphysics". It led to her becoming a global ambassador for the Club of Budapest, an inter-faith club of the great and the good seeking "a shift toward a more peaceful, equitable, and sustainable world". Members ranged from the Dalai Lama to Sharon Stone.

She is survived by her son Jonathan Deane Montagu-Scott, a biotechnologist and cancer researcher, and by her two stepchildren Ralph, 4th Baron Montagu of Beaulieu, and Mary Montagu-Scott from her husband's first marriage to Belinda, Lady Montagu, which was dissolved. Belinda died last year (obituary, December 19). As a second wife, Fiona noted that the husband she had inherited from the first Lady Montagu "only had one bride, and that was Beaulieu".

On their marriage in 1974 she took charge of a domestic staff of 30 at Palace House, including a butler, footman, cook and scullery maid. After her husband's death (obituary September 1, 2015) she was relieved to escape the responsibility of running Beaulieu and moved to London permanently. Her stepson Ralph inherited the estate and took over its running with his wife, Ailsa. "Living at Beaulieu has been like being on a rollercoaster," she said.

Born Fiona Margaret Herbert in 1943 in what is now Zimbabwe, she was the daughter of Richard and Isobel Herbert. She spent much of her childhood in Sussex before finishing her education in Switzerland. Back in Britain, she was working as a film production assistant when she was introduced to Lord Montagu. Seventeen years his junior, she was at first unaware of his bisexuality and his colourful past.



An escort of Princess Margaret in the early 1950s, he was described in the gossip columns as "Britain's most eligible bachelor", but in 1954 he was jailed for "consensual homosexual offences" with two RAF servicemen. The case became a cause célèbre and contributed to the setting up of the Wolfenden Committee, which in its 1957 report recommended the decriminalisation of homosexual activity in private between consenting adults, though it was another decade before the legislation was enacted. "The first thing he did when we started dating was to give me a book about the trial," Lady Montagu told the Sunday Telegraph. "But I wasn't interested in his sex life. I was more worried that he had so much energy and I wouldn't be able to keep up with him. I think part of the reason he married me was that I was non-judgmental."

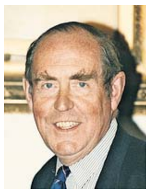
She threw herself into commercial and social life at Beaulieu. "Parties did exist before I came but they've grown. I do love everyone to have a good time," she said. No bash was more memorable than her own 70th birthday party, which was scheduled for December 2013, but she delayed it until the following spring on the advice of her astrologer. A great Elvis Presley fan, she ordered a rhinestone-encrusted white jumpsuit and guests entered into the spirit of the occasion, turning up in a variety of different Elvis iterations, either in Las Vegas costumes or dressed as Teddy Boys and GIs. Even her two springer spaniels wore Elvis capes and jewelled collars. An Elvis impersonator sang *Blue Suede Shoes* and *Don't Be Cruel* and the themed buffet featured Presley's favourite foods: peanut and jelly canapés, meatloaf and hot dogs.

She wore her costume again the following year when the Beaulieu motor museum took possession of the burgundy and silver Cadillac Seville that Presley had driven the day before he died in 1977. Photographed in her Elvis costume in front of his car, she noted that she had married into aristocracy, but there was only one King.

**Fiona, Lady Montagu of Beaulieu, chatelaine of Palace House, was born on December 29, 1943. She died after a short illness on May 14, 2023, aged 79**

## Lives remembered

### Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville



*Sir Peter Wanless, chief executive officer, NSPCC, and former private secretary to Sir John Major, writes:* There was evident warmth between Lord Brooke (obituary, May 15) and Sir John Major. At the Treasury, I regularly witnessed them stealing moments for one-to-one chats about cricket scores.

But these intimate encounters were stymied by prime minister Margaret Thatcher's summer reshuffle in 1988.

When each of them returned to the Treasury to say farewell and review that day's play at the cricket — one as the newly appointed foreign secretary and the other as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland — it was their two bodyguards who must have made such discussions far less spontaneous and gossipy from that point on.

### Professor Dame Rosemary Cramp



*Martin Millett, president, Society of Antiquaries of London, writes:* The obituary (May 4) of Rosemary Cramp captured her personality and contribution to Anglo-Saxon archaeology very well. It is worth emphasising too her enormous behind-the-scenes contribution to the development of British archaeology and her role as a national leader of the subject. This was recognised by her election as president of the Society of Antiquaries of London (2001-04) — only the second woman to hold this office — and by the award of the Society's Gold Medal in 2008.

@ If you would like to add a personal view or recollection to a published obituary, you can email it to **tributes@thetimes.co.uk**

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## Court Circular

**Buckingham Palace**
17th May, 2023

The King and Queen this morning visited St Paul's Church, Bedford Street, London WC2, to mark its Three Hundred and Ninetieth Anniversary and were received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Sir Kenneth Olisa) and the Rector (the Reverend Simon Grigg).

Their Majesties, escorted by the Rector, entered the Church via the Diamond Jubilee Garden and met trustees, churchwardens and members of Church staff.

The King met representatives from the Covent Garden Community Association, actors and members of the theatre community.

The Queen met representatives from the Drama for Healing Group.

Their Majesties afterwards walked through the West Piazza and were received at the Apple Market by the Chief Executive Officer of Shaftesbury Capital (Mr Ian Hawksworth).

The King, escorted by the Chief Executive Officer, and The Queen, escorted by Ms Michelle McGrath (Executive Director, Shaftesbury Capital), visited stallholders in Covent Garden Market before continuing on foot towards the Royal Opera House and being received at the Colonnade by the Chairman of the Royal Opera House (Sir Lloyd Dorfman) and meeting performers, students of the Royal Ballet School and members of Royal Opera House staff.

The King this afternoon held a Reception for The Prince's Trust Awards at Buckingham Palace.

The King held a Council at 4pm.

There were present: the Rt Hon Penelope Mordaunt MP (Lord President), the Rt Hon Olukemi Badenoch MP (Secretary of State for Business and Trade), the Rt Hon Lucy Frazer MP (Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport), the Rt Hon Alister Jack MP (Secretary of State for Scotland) and the Rt Hon Chloe Smith MP (Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology).

Mr Humza Yousaf MSP (First Minister of Scotland) was sworn in as a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

The Rt Hon Chloe Smith MP made affirmation, kissed hands upon appointment and received the Seal of Office as Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology.

Mr Richard Tilbrook was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Rt Hon Penelope Mordaunt MP had an audience of His Majesty before the Council.

The Rt Hon Humza Yousaf MSP (First Minister of the Scottish Government) was received in audience by The King.

**St James's Palace**
17th May, 2023

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended the Stone of Destiny Thank You Reception at Edinburgh Castle.

The Duchess of Edinburgh this morning visited the Children's Sailing Trust, Trevassack Lake, Helston, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall (Colonel Edward Bolitho).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Falmouth University, Falmouth Campus, Woodlane, Falmouth.

The Duchess of Edinburgh later visited Colwith Farm Distillery, Crewell Moor, Pelyn Cross, Lanlivery.

**St James's Palace**
17th May, 2023

The Princess Royal, Patron, Women's Royal Naval Service Benevolent Trust, this morning attended the Annual General Meeting and a Reception at the Warrant Officers' and Senior Rates' Mess, HMS EXCELLENT, Whale Island, Portsmouth, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire (Mr Nigel Atkinson).

Her Royal Highness, Royal Patron, National Coastwatch Institution, this afternoon visited Gosport Station, Signal Tower, Fort Blockhouse, Gosport, Hampshire, and subsequently attended a Reception at Hornet Services Sailing Club, Haslar Road, Gosport.

The Princess Royal, Commandant-in-Chief, First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (Princess Royal's Volunteer Corps), this evening attended a Recruits' Passing Out Parade at Wellington Barracks, London SWI, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Sir Kenneth Olisa).

**Kensington Palace**
17th May, 2023

The Duke of Gloucester and The Duchess of Gloucester, President, this evening attended a performance by the Royal Academy Opera of "La Cambiale di Matrimonio" at the Royal Academy of Music, Marylebone Road, London NW1.

## Births, Marriages and Deaths

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**NOT** only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.
Romans 5.3-5 (NIV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

### Deaths

**CHRISTMAS** Martin died peacefully on 13th May 2023, aged 83. He represented GB&I in the Walker Cup in 1961 and 63 and the Eisenhower Trophy in 1962, and was president of Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club. He is survived by his loving wife Maggie and his sons Lawrence and Darrell.

**GOOCH** see Petzal

**PETZAL** Ellen (née Rosenthal) widow of Harry Petzal and wife of Alan Gooch, born 1928 Berlin-Grunewald, died 7th May 2023 in London. A person much loved.

**ROSS** Malcolm Douglas passed away peacefully on 7th May 2023, aged 82. Much-loved father to Emma and Lucy and grandad to Alice, Rosie and Marcus. Funeral service to take place at The Church of St Mary the Virgin, South Baddesley, on Tuesday 23rd May at 11.30am. In God we 'Trust'.

**LADY THOMSON**
**Jan Hart**
**Widow of Air Chief Marshal Sir John Thomson. Died peacefully on 29th April 2023 at Royal Berkshire Hospital, aged 78. Beloved mother of Catherine (deceased), Clare and Annie, and devoted partner of Bob Ridley. She will be deeply missed. Funeral service to be held at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Goring on Thames, on Tuesday 23rd May at 2.30pm. No flowers please. Donations if desired for Style Acre may be made via abwalker.co.uk All inquiries to AB Walker, Reading, 0118 957 3650.**

PHOTOGRAPHER LIAM GILLAN

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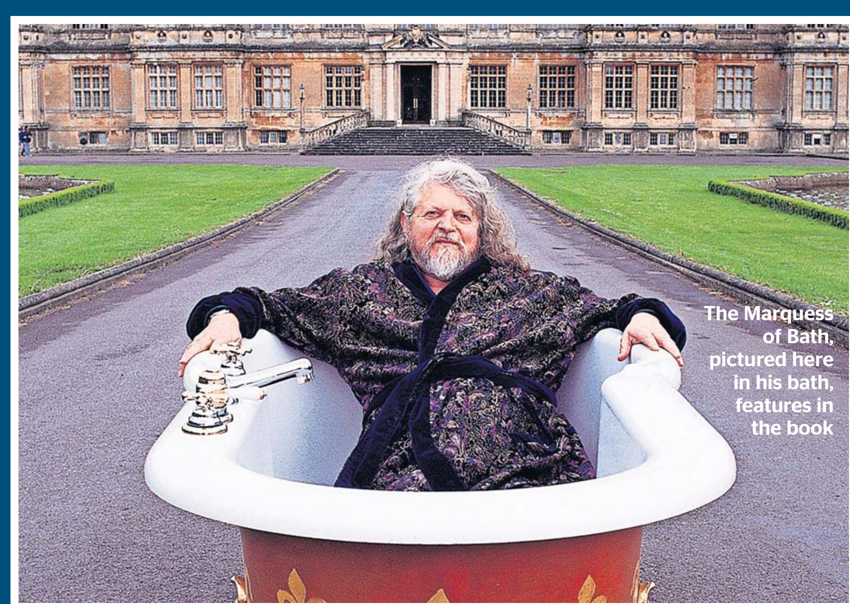
ELEANOR EVE AND JAMES MARTIN WERE MARRIED ON NOVEMBER 12, 2022, AT APTON HALL, IN ROCHFORD, ESSEX. THEY FEATURED IN THE TIMES ON FEBRUARY 11, 2023

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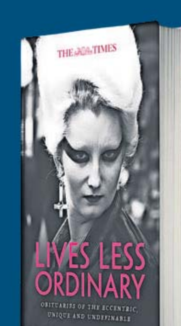
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THE TIMES

# Law

# Ministers to duck migrant rights clash

Concerns are raised that the plans could damage the UK's reputation. **Catherine Baksi** reports



BEN STANSALL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

In an unusual move, the government has opted out of human rights legislation on the face of the Illegal Immigration Bill

Condemnation of the government's Illegal Migration Bill has come not just from refugee and human rights groups and those branded by some ministers as "lefty lawyers".

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, denounced the plans as "morally unacceptable and politically impractical". In a debate on the bill in the House of Lords, he warned that the proposed legislation risked causing great damage to the UK's interests and reputation at home and abroad.

Writing in The Times, the home secretary, Suella Braverman, and the justice secretary, Alex Chalk KC, gave a pre-emptive warning to peers before the debate not to defy the "will of the British people" to control immigration.

Last year more than 45,700 people arrived in England in small boats, according to government figures, and the bill is a key plank of the prime minister's plan to stop them. Opening the debate in the House of Lords, the Home Office minister Lord Murray of Blidworth said that the bill was a "compassionate and necessary response" to the soaring numbers of migrants.

As it stands, the bill will change the law so that people who come to the UK illegally will not be able to stay. Instead they will be detained and then "promptly" removed, either to their home country or a "safe third country like Rwanda".

The government hopes it will "stop the endless merry-go-round of spurious, last-minute legal challenges that are used as a delay tactic to stop those with no right to be in the UK from being removed".

The Bar Council and Law Society, the bodies that represent barristers and solicitors respectively in England and Wales, have criticised the bill as unworkable and incompatible with international law, including the European Convention on Human Rights, the United Nations Refugee Convention and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Unusually, on the face of the bill Blidworth states: "I am unable to make a statement that, in my view, the provisions of the Illegal Migration Bill are compatible with the convention rights." That statement, made under section 19 of the Human Rights Act 1998, allows ministers to introduce a bill even if they are not confident that it is compatible with convention rights.

Sir Jonathan Jones, the former Treasury solicitor and permanent secretary of the Government Legal Department, explains that section 19 requires ministers and civil servants to consider explicitly whether a bill is compatible, which he says is "a very important discipline". Such statements, Jones says, are "very rare", citing just three recent instances: the Communications Act 2003, on a ban on political advertising, was found to be compatible by the law lords and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR); the Local Government Bill 2000, which still included the notorious section 28 that banned the promotion of same-sex relationships, and which was subsequently repealed; and the House of Lords Bill 2012, which aimed to ban prisoners from voting and was ultimately abandoned.

Jones says that the statement made in the Illegal Migration Bill is unusual because it is "a very extreme example given the scale and range of the potential incompatibilities" with the European Convention, which includes articles on the right to life, torture,

> **'Spurious, last-minute legal challenges are used as a delay tactic'**

slavery, fair trial, detention, family and private life, discrimination, and the right to a remedy.

While the government says it has "respectable arguments" that the bill may be compatible, Jones suggests that by making the statement ministers accept that it is "more likely than not to breach international law". The risk and likelihood, he says, is that claimants who fail in the UK courts — or are prevented by the bill from bringing claims altogether — will take cases to Strasbourg. He says: "There must be a strong likelihood that the government will lose some of those cases, in which case it will either have to comply or put itself on a collision course with the ECHR and the Council of Europe."

At the Bar Council's annual conference in November, the attorney-general, Victoria Prentis KC, pledged to uphold the rule of law and advise the government "as a lawyer first and a politician second". Westminster insiders suggest that it is likely that Prentis was asked to advise on the bill, adding that her position was made easier by the government's section 19 admission, as she will not be required to uphold its lawfulness.

A briefing note sent to Labour MPs and seen by The Times suggests that focusing on the potential illegality of the bill is playing into the government's hands, enabling ministers to claim that their efforts to stop the small boats are being thwarted by the opposition and "lefty lawyers".

In February Robert Jenrick, the immigration minister, accused human rights lawyers of abusing and exploiting the law at times and suggested that Home Office officials were "monitoring" the activities of some.

Last week a government source told The Times that financially motivated lawyers were to blame for the failure of an initiative to reduce the asylum backlog by replacing face-to-face interviews with a ten-page questionnaire. The source claimed that lawyers were "actively briefing migrants to fill in the forms incorrectly" — a comment that neither the Home Office nor Ministry of Justice confirmed when contacted by The Times this week.

Zoe Bantleman, the legal director of the Immigration Law Practitioners Association, says that her association does not recognise that characterisation of lawyers and states that Home Office officials have not raised any concerns with her.

The solicitors' regulator said it was in "regular contact" with the Home Office over dubious immigration claims. The Solicitors Regulation Authority said that over the past six years 17 people had appeared before the professional disciplinary tribunal in relation to such matters, with ten being struck off, three suspended and four fined.

# Russians in commercial court surge despite sanctions

**Jonathan Ames**

Vladimir Putin's tanks rolled into Ukraine more than a year ago, triggering tough sanctions from western governments — but the highest tension between Westminster and Moscow since the Cold War has not discouraged Russian litigants from descending on London's commercial court.

Annual figures published this month revealed record numbers of Russians were in the High Court, with litigants from that country forming the most common foreign nationality. The analysis showed that sanctioned entities were among them.

Stranger still, the number of Ukrainian litigants dropped to zero, despite that country ranking among the most common nationalities in previous years.

The overall importance of foreign litigants to the English commercial law ecosystem was highlighted in the report by figures showing that British litigants represented only 40 per cent of those in court, a substantial drop from last year.

Researchers commissioned by the Portland consultancy reported that activity at the commercial court had not yet returned to the level prior to the coronavirus pandemic — yet the number of judgments recovered, with an 11 per cent increase over the previous year. The report revealed that more than a thousand litigants appeared in the courts, a 23 per cent rise on last year's figure. However, it is the figures on Russian litigation that are the most striking. The report noted that over the past three years the number of Russian litigants in the English commercial court has rocketed by 85 per cent.

It had been anticipated that the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine would trigger a significant drop in that trend, but last year the number of Russian litigants rose by 10 to 59.

The researchers highlighted that in the 18 judgments given between April 2022 and March 2023, six involved Russian litigants on both sides. In nearly two thirds of the cases the litigants were individuals, including the oligarch family Boris, Dmitry, Alexander and Igor Mints, and Igor Antoshin.

UK sanctions on Moscow actually partially explained the rise in the number of Russian judgments in London. Three rulings related to one case involving the Mints and PJSC National Bank Trust and Bank Otkritie, the latter having been targeted by UK sanctions as part of the Ukraine war.

While lawyers may be grateful that the Russians are still coming to London's commercial court, passengers on the Clapham omnibus are less enthusiastic. The researchers found that 51 per cent of the British public had a negative view of the English courts being used by Russian litigants.

And the report unearthed wider public support in favour of climate change litigation in the UK, including action against greenwashing companies. About 90 per cent of the public said that parent companies should be held accountable for damage caused by a subsidiary. More than 80 per cent of respondents agreed that the "UK courts should be prepared to intervene to force private companies to meet more ambitious climate change-related targets".

After Russia, the next biggest overseas buyers of the London commercial court were litigants from the US, the researchers reported, with India and Singapore coming next.

Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, a former president of the Supreme Court, said in a foreword to the report that he was "surprised" by the increase in Singaporean and Indian litigants, adding that "it appears to be a particular compliment to London, given the keenness of the Singapore courts and arbitration institutions to attract southern Asian international dispute resolution to Singapore".

Philip Hall, Portland's managing director, said that the "public's strong feelings on Russians using the English courts, and on environmental litigation being used as a force for good, shows once again that the law does not exist in a vacuum. Litigation, commercial strategy and reputation can no longer be separated".

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In conversation
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# Job loss fears as cutbacks loom

Jonathan Ames

Persistent inflation and fears of a recession have jangled nerves at international law firms to the point where several are whispering the "R" word.

Indeed, the management team at Dechert is not just whispering redundancy — it has publicly acknowledged a programme to shed 5 per cent of staff across its global offices, including lawyers in London.

Dechert, which is based in Philadelphia, has confirmed that 55 lawyers and 43 administration staff will be cut across its global offices, but it has not specified how many will be sacked from its City office.

The firm tells Times Law that "a redundancy process has begun in London", and concedes that it was "a difficult decision" to take.

There is speculation that Dechert will not be alone, with choppy economic waters and ballooning salaries for junior lawyers combining to force belt tightening at several City practices. Mid-tier associates — and long-in-the-tooth partners — will doubtless bear the brunt of the cutbacks, but there are also signs that the hitherto febrile transfer market for rainmaking partners will be affected.

"We're seeing large City firms who have spent months focusing on lateral partner hires now changing their minds and pausing or halting the processes at the last minute," Martin Turner, a director at Michael Page Legal, a recruitment agency, says.

He warns that, in turn, increasing caution means that the City's large firms "are at risk of damaging their reputation through indecision at offer stage, particularly when candidates have put in a lot of time and effort to get to that point".

Redundancies are not the only sign of looming financial issues for City firms. Within the past fortnight Withers, one of the Square Mile's best-known private client specialists, imposed a "cash call" on its junior equity partners.

The firm is adamant that the move is not motivated by a need to raise funds and that the vote triggering the cash call was taken two years ago. The firm insists that the rationale behind the move is to "foster engagement" by junior partners and to create an "owner ethos". Yet some junior partners at Withers will be forced to cough up more than £40,000, which it could be argued will foster something other than goodwill. The firm is silent on whether the junior partners will get anything in return — for example, more partnership points and greater voting rights — for their enhanced ownership.

The seemingly inexorable rise in starting pay for newly qualified lawyers at City firms also causes concern. This week another renowned private client specialist, Macfarlanes, confirmed that it had increased pay for juniors by 7 per cent to £115,000. The salary pales in comparison to the starting wages at the US firms, which have driven pay wars in the City for the past 18 months. Akin Gump sits atop the league table, doling out salaries of nearly £180,000 to their lawyers on the day they qualify.

Sky-rocketing pay has sparked grumbling among those who have to pay. One City partner told Times Law this week that "the irony with these junior solicitors is that they want the big money, but they want to work from home, they don't want to work long hours and they want to be given plenty of time to work on their pet pro bono projects. That is not sustainable."

Maxwell Duffen, at JMC Legal Recruitment, points to another issue around the American firms. He says that over the past 12 months there has been an increase in competition for legal services because of the growing influence of US law firms in London, which has led to more law firms looking to secure clients. "With many potential clients feeling the effects of economic uncertainty, the price and quality of service offered by law firms has come under the microscope and it has led to a shift in the importance of the service being offered over the historical reputation of a law firm," he says.

Brent Harris, an executive at another recruiter, Major Lindsey & Africa, adds that "the trend of law firms trimming their sales at associate level is not restricted to London, and we're seeing similar activity at firms around the world". He says that firms that were "aggressive during the post coronavirus-pandemic hiring frenzy in 2021 and 2022 may now be looking at ways to improve profitability as the volume of transactional work has fallen and they have some associates with much lower billable hours".

Tony Williams, head of Jomati, the legal profession advisory consultancy, is more optimistic. He argues that "most firms are being very measured. They remember just how tight the market became in 2021. Accordingly they are considering whether it is necessary automatically to replace people who leave, whether people can be redeployed between practice areas or offices and finally if performance reviews should be more hard-edged."

He adds that "unless the market deteriorates further in the UK, I do not expect to see large-scale legal sector redundancies". However, the boom in pay will be dampened. Williams forecasts that salary increases this year will be significantly below the rate of inflation and that lawyers will have to work harder, with firms increasing chargeable hours targets. He says that the days of mass home working will soon end. "Firms will start to be more prescriptive as to expectations about time in the office — including for partners."

VLADIMIR ZAKHAROV/GETTY IMAGES



Speculation has mounted that several City law firms will be forced to make redundancies amid economic choppy waters

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## Lawyer of the week Kevin Baumber

Kevin Baumber, a barrister at Three Raymond Buildings, acted for Imran Mahmood, a Metropolitan Police constable who was cleared of a charge of causing grievous bodily harm when he tasered a man who was left paralysed. Mahmood denied acting unlawfully.

**What were the biggest hurdles you had to overcome in this case?** Managing the sensitivities of what was a tragic case irrespective of the verdict while maintaining proper focus on the forensic and legal issues in a difficult climate for police conduct. And bridging the gulf between the operational reality for officers and the comfort of hindsight found in paper bundles and videos on pause and slow-mo repeat.

**What is the best decision you have taken as a lawyer?** Dedicating to defending the thin blue line.

**Who do you most admire in the law?** The late Alex Cameron KC … the grace, kindness and unwavering humility. Court staff: ushers, clerks, security, administration, cleaners, volunteers.

**What is the best advice you have received?** Ignore the naysayers. As a comprehensive-educated boy from Norfolk, the first in my family to attend university, I was told more than once not to apply to the Bar. I did anyway, worked incredibly hard, and found enormous encouragement and support.



**What is the funniest thing that has happened in your job?** While obviously neither funny nor accurate, when I was co-defending with my room-mate Hugh Davies KC, he remarked upon the live link screen firing up: "The camera appears to have removed Mr Baumber's hair." The extended laughter — I assume out of politeness — lasted uncomfortably long. The observation made the record.

**What are the best and worst elements of being a lawyer?** Making tangible differences to real lives. The work-life balance.

**What law would you enact?** Codify misconduct in public office, including a cronyism iteration.

**What is your favourite book** Richard Moore's *Slaying the Badger*, the story of Bernard Hinault's defeat to Greg LeMond in the 1986 Tour de France.

Linda Tsang
l_tsang@hotmail.com

## OUT OF COURT

The cases, the chatter, the chaos: what's really going on in the law

### Legal heads' discontent

Heads of legal at corporations love to grumble about City law firms, with partner hourly billing rates hitting £1,000 doubtless fomenting a constant rumbling of discontent. The latest issue revealed in a survey of more than 500 corporate general counsel at UK and international companies is that 26 per cent said law firms had inadequate technology to meet their demands.

The survey was commissioned by Simmons & Simmons, a City law firm that will now be struck off its counterparts' Christmas card lists for its trouble. Turning away from technology and moving back to basics, 20 per cent of general counsel reported being unhappy with the slow response times from external lawyers.

### Fraud office 'mess'

What to do with a problem like the Serious Fraud Office has become a jolly refrain around Westminster and Whitehall. The agency faces criticism over failed prosecutions and its "framework" is being reviewed by the attorney-general's office.

Answering a parliamentary question, the solicitor-general, Michael Tomlinson KC, acknowledged that the views of just one party had been sought so far: those of the Serious Fraud Office. "This is an inmates running the asylum situation," one Westminster watcher quipped, adding that "the precise people responsible for causing the mess are the only ones being consulted about how to improve the system".

### Safety in numbers

A Team GB 2012 gold medallist, a priest and a retired police detective have told jurors that they can acquit climate change protesters if they agree with their cause.

Etienne Stott, 43, who won a canoeing gold medal at the London Olympics, and the Rev Sue Parfitt, 81, were among 24 protesters who staged a seated demonstration outside Inner London crown court. The campaigners held signs that told passing jurors that they had a right "to acquit a defendant according to their conscience". They were protesting against the actions of Judge Silas Reid, who last month ordered the arrest of Trudi Warner, 68, for standing outside the court holding a similar sign. This time there was safety in numbers as none of the 24 was arrested.

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Enjoy a guided tour of Libourne. Alternatively, explore the exclusive estate of Château Siaurac with a wine tasting, or view the eclectic city of Bergerac (B, L, D)

**Day 4 Médoc, France ★Wine Tasting★**
Travel the scenic Médoc wine route and sample the region's finest at a local estate, or cycle to a local Château for a wine tasting

**★Scenic Enrich×:** Soak in the ambiance of Château d'Agassac as live musicians perform classical masterpieces, exclusive to guests (B, L, D)

**Day 5 Pauillac – Cadillac, France**
Today, cruise the Garonne River into Cadillac. Tonight, local entertainers perform live for your exclusive enjoyment (B, L, D)

**Day 6 Cadillac, France ★Wine Tasting★**
Venture into the Sauternes region for a delicious wine tasting at the prestigious Château de Rayne Vigneau, or cycle through Sauternes to the Grand Cru Classé estate of Lafaurie Peyraguey for a tasting. Visit Roquetaillade Castle, alternatively, visit a truffle farm or perhaps visit Château Malromé, the family home of well known artist, Toulouse Lautrec (B, L, D)

**Day 7 Bordeaux, France**
Shop with a Chef at a local food market or enjoy a guided tour of Bordeaux, or if you're feeling more active, you may choose to cycle the historic regions of the city. Back on board, enjoy a tasting of fresh oysters delivered straight from the waters of Arcachon Bay

**★Scenic Enrich×:** During exclusive after-hours access be welcomed with a glass of Champagne as you visit Les Bassins de Lumières, Bordeaux's former submarine base which has been transformed into an impressive digital art installation (B, L, D)

**Day 8 Arcachon – Bourg, France**
Journey to Arcachon and join a walking tour including a visit to the local markets, or stay in Bordeaux and take a tram to the Cité du Vin museum. Alternatively, climb Dune du Pilat, Europe's largest sand dune (B, L, D)

**Day 9 Cognac, France**
Discover the Carriages Museum in the enchanting Bourg Castle, or spend a full day exploring Cognac. **Afterwards, enjoy a tasting at the acclaimed property of Rémy Martin** (B, L, D)

**Day 10 Blaye – Bordeaux, France**
Enjoy a guided walking tour, or take a more active walk through the Citadel of Blaye. Or, explore the stunning beauty of the fairytale Château de La Roche Courbon on a guided tour. Alternatively, join a 30km roundtrip cycle along the Captain's Road (B, L, D)

**Day 11 Bordeaux, France**
After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your return flight back to London> (B)

Meals are included as stated: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner.
Itinerary is based on 7th August 2023 departure date

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**Today** Mostly dry with the odd shower in southern Britain, patchy light rain elsewhere. Max 19C (66F), min 5C (41F)

## Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

| | Temp C midday yesterday | | Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday | Sun hr* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 16 | PC | 0.0 | 5.8 |
| Aberporth | 14 | PC | 0.0 | 4.1 |
| Anglesey | 13 | S | 0.0 | 7.1 |
| Aviemore | 15 | S | 0.0 | 4.2 |
| Barnstaple | 16 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Bedford | 15 | PC | 0.0 | ** |
| Belfast | 15 | PC | 0.0 | 2.9 |
| Birmingham | 15 | C | 0.0 | ** |
| Bournemouth | 16 | C | 0.0 | 8.6 |
| Bridlington | 13 | PC | 3.8 | ** |
| Bristol | 16 | PC | 0.0 | 6.6 |
| Camborne | 16 | C | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Cardiff | 14 | S | 0.0 | 4.9 |
| Edinburgh | 17 | S | 0.0 | 6.2 |
| Eskdalemuir | 15 | PC | 0.0 | 2.7 |
| Glasgow | 15 | PC | 0.0 | 4.2 |
| Hereford | 15 | C | 0.0 | ** |
| Herstmonceux | 16 | C | 0.0 | 5.5 |
| Ipswich | 14 | C | 0.0 | 3.6 |
| Isle of Man | 14 | PC | 0.0 | 6.9 |
| Isle of Wight | 17 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Jersey | 16 | S | 0.0 | 1.9 |
| Keswick | 15 | PC | 0.0 | ** |
| Kinloss | 16 | PC | 0.0 | 4.4 |
| Leeds | 14 | PC | 0.4 | ** |
| Lerwick | 8 | C | 1.6 | 2.5 |
| Leuchars | 16 | C | 0.0 | 1.8 |
| Lincoln | 14 | ** | 0.2 | 5.7 |
| Liverpool | 14 | PC | 0.0 | ** |
| London | 16 | C | 0.0 | 5.3 |
| Lyneham | 14 | B | 0.0 | 5.1 |
| Manchester | 16 | C | 0.0 | 4.8 |
| Margate | 14 | PC | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| Milford Haven | 16 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Newcastle | 14 | PC | 2.8 | ** |
| Nottingham | 14 | C | 0.0 | 4.0 |
| Orkney | 13 | C | 0.8 | 3.1 |
| Oxford | 16 | PC | 0.0 | ** |
| Plymouth | 15 | M | 0.0 | ** |
| Portland | 13 | PC | 0.0 | ** |
| Scilly, St Mary's | 15 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Shoreham | 16 | C | 0.0 | 4.4 |
| Shrewsbury | 15 | PC | 0.0 | 5.8 |
| Snowdonia | 15 | C | 0.0 | ** |
| Southend | 15 | PC | 0.0 | 3.6 |
| South Uist | 12 | C | 1.2 | ** |
| Stornoway | 12 | C | 1.8 | 7.4 |
| Tiree | 13 | C | 0.8 | 3.8 |
| Whitehaven | 14 | B | 0.0 | 5.9 |
| Wick | 13 | C | 0.0 | ** |
| Yeovilton | 15 | PC | 0.0 | 4.3 |

## The world

All readings local midday yesterday

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alicante | 21 | PC | Madeira | 22 | PC |
| Amsterdam | 14 | PC | Madrid | 20 | S |
| Athens | 24 | PC | Malaga | 22 | PC |
| Auckland | 16 | B | Mallorca | 21 | B |
| Bahrain | 34 | S | Malta | 21 | S |
| Bangkok | 34 | PC | Melbourne | 13 | PC |
| Barbados | 30 | PC | Mexico City | 20 | R |
| Barcelona | 20 | S | Miami | 32 | PC |
| Beijing | 27 | S | Milan | 14 | R |
| Beirut | 26 | S | Mombasa | 31 | B |
| Belgrade | 22 | PC | Montreal | 13 | C |
| Berlin | 14 | S | Moscow | 22 | S |
| Bermuda | 22 | B | Mumbai | 33 | S |
| Bordeaux | 18 | S | Munich | 13 | PC |
| Brussels | 15 | S | Nairobi | 22 | B |
| Bucharest | 16 | R | Naples | 17 | B |
| Budapest | 19 | B | New Orleans | 29 | S |
| Buenos Aires | 25 | S | New York | 22 | B |
| Cairo | 31 | S | Nice | 21 | SH |
| Calcutta | 36 | S | Nicosia | 33 | S |
| Canberra | 12 | PC | Oslo | 12 | S |
| Cape Town | 17 | B | Paris | 16 | B |
| Chicago | 26 | PC | Perth | 24 | S |
| Copenhagen | 11 | B | Prague | 10 | B |
| Corfu | 18 | PC | Reykjavik | 9 | DU |
| Delhi | 37 | S | Riga | 14 | PC |
| Dubai | 38 | S | Rio de Janeiro | 26 | S |
| Dublin | 17 | PC | Riyadh | 37 | S |
| Faro | 21 | PC | Rome | 19 | PC |
| Florence | 19 | B | San Francisco | 19 | S |
| Frankfurt | 15 | PC | Santiago | 18 | PC |
| Geneva | 13 | PC | São Paulo | 22 | S |
| Gibraltar | 19 | C | Seoul | 25 | S |
| Helsinki | 13 | B | Seychelles | 31 | PC |
| Hong Kong | 24 | SH | Singapore | 31 | B |
| Honolulu | 28 | B | St Petersburg | 19 | B |
| Istanbul | 19 | B | Stockholm | 5 | D |
| Jerusalem | 32 | S | Sydney | 16 | SH |
| Johannesburg | 15 | PC | Tel Aviv | 32 | S |
| Kuala Lumpur | 33 | PC | Tenerife | 23 | PC |
| Kyiv | ** | ** | Tokyo | 28 | S |
| Lanzarote | 24 | PC | Vancouver | 20 | PC |
| Las Palmas | 24 | PC | Venice | 17 | B |
| Lima | 21 | B | Vienna | 9 | R |
| Lisbon | 27 | S | Warsaw | 12 | R |
| Los Angeles | 18 | B | Washington | 26 | B |
| Luxor | 39 | S | Zurich | 12 | B |

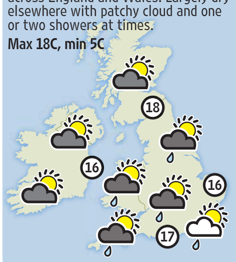
## Five days ahead

A relatively dry period with bright spells and a few outbreaks of rain and showers in places

### Tomorrow

Bright intervals and patchy light rain across England and Wales. Largely dry elsewhere with patchy cloud and one or two showers at times.

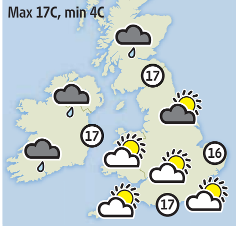
**Max 18C, min 5C**




### Saturday

Thick cloud and patchy rain across Ireland and Scotland, heaviest in the west through the afternoon. Dry elsewhere with sunny intervals.

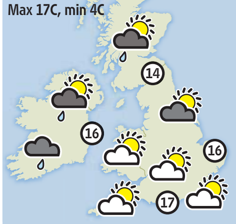
**Max 17C, min 4C**




### Sunday

Another dry day with sunny spells across England and Wales. Bright periods and patchy light rain in Ireland and Scotland.

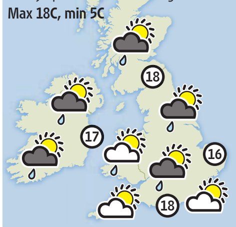
**Max 17C, min 4C**




### Monday

A day of bright intervals and a few outbreaks of rain or showers across much of the British Isles. Dry with sunny spells in southern England.

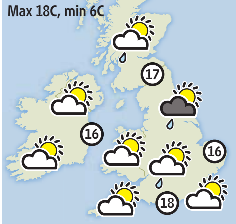
**Max 18C, min 5C**




### Tuesday

Sunny spells and light scattered showers, most frequent across Scotland and eastern England. Mostly dry and sunny in Ireland.

**Max 18C, min 6C**




The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest

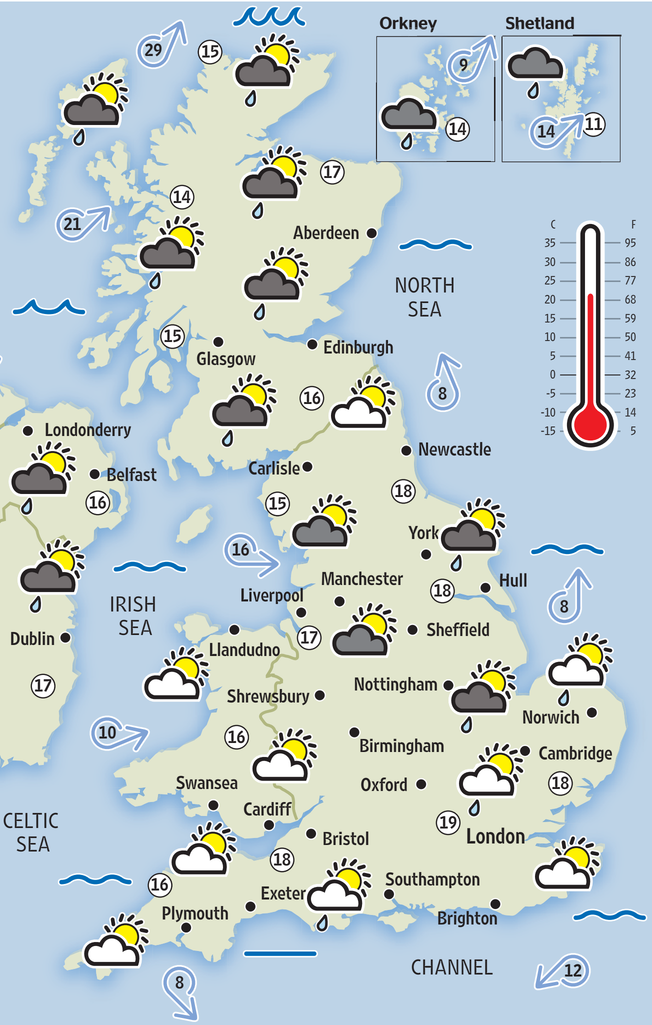
**Wind speed** 34 (mph)

**Sea state** Calm, Slight, Moderate, Rough

**Temperature** 28 (degrees C)

**Flood alerts and warnings**

At 17:00 on Wednesday there were two flood alerts and no warnings in England and no flood alerts or warnings in Wales and Scotland. For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk




**General situation:** Cloudy with light rain in Ireland and Scotland, largely dry with the odd shower elsewhere.

**Edinburgh and Dundee, Cen Highland, NW Scotland, NE Scotland, Aberdeen, N Isles, Moray Firth, Glasgow, Argyll, SW Scotland:** A few showers in the west through the morning before an afternoon of thick cloud and patchy light rain. Light to moderate southwesterly winds, perhaps fresh along the northwest coast. Maximum 17C (63F), minimum 5C (41F).

**Borders, Lake District, NE Eng, E Eng, Cen N Eng, NW Eng, IoM:** A largely dry day with bright intervals and one or two isolated showers or patches of light rain where cloud is thickest. Light and variable winds. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 7C (45F).

**W Mids, Wales, Channel Is, SW Eng, E Mids:** A mainly dry day with bright spells and a chance of the odd isolated shower through the afternoon. Light and variable winds. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 6C (43F).

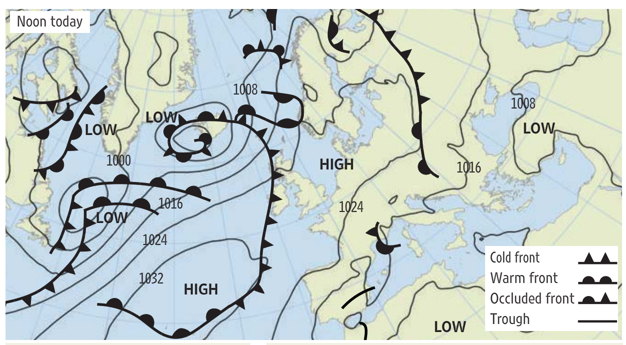
**London, E Anglia, Cen S Eng, SE Eng:** A dry morning with sunny periods. Sunny spells and a few showers through the afternoon, turning heavy at times. Light and variable winds. Maximum 19C (66F), minimum 6C (43F).

**Republic of Ireland, N Ireland:** A mostly dry morning with bright intervals and one or two isolated showers. Thick cloud and patchy light rain through the afternoon. Light to moderate west to southwesterly winds. Maximum 17C (63F), minimum 6C (43F).

## Tides

Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

| Today | | Ht | | Ht |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 01:10 | 4.0 | 13:16 | 4.1 |
| Avonmouth | 07:03 | 12.9 | 19:26 | 13.0 |
| Belfast | 11:04 | 3.5 | 23:28 | 3.3 |
| Cardiff | 06:53 | 12.0 | 19:14 | 12.0 |
| Devonport | 05:34 | 5.3 | 17:59 | 5.3 |
| Dover | 11:16 | 6.4 | 23:29 | 6.6 |
| Dublin | 11:32 | 4.0 | --:-- | -- |
| Falmouth | 05:00 | 5.0 | 17:24 | 4.9 |
| Greenock | --:-- | -- | 12:24 | 3.4 |
| Harwich | 11:41 | 4.0 | 23:54 | 3.9 |
| Holyhead | 10:10 | 5.5 | 22:38 | 5.4 |
| Hull | 06:14 | 7.1 | 18:16 | 7.5 |
| Leith | 02:19 | 5.3 | 14:31 | 5.4 |
| Liverpool | 10:59 | 9.1 | 23:26 | 9.0 |
| London Bridge | 01:26 | 6.8 | 13:56 | 6.8 |
| Lowestoft | 09:33 | 2.4 | 21:21 | 2.5 |
| Milford Haven | 06:02 | 6.8 | 18:25 | 6.7 |
| Morecambe | 11:10 | 9.1 | 23:37 | 9.0 |
| Newhaven | 11:02 | 6.4 | 23:23 | 6.6 |
| Newquay | 04:55 | 6.7 | 17:17 | 6.6 |
| Oban | 05:42 | 3.8 | 17:54 | 3.7 |
| Penzance | 04:28 | 5.4 | 16:52 | 5.3 |
| Portsmouth | 11:11 | 4.5 | 23:40 | 4.7 |
| Shoreham | 11:17 | 6.0 | 23:38 | 6.3 |
| Southampton | 10:53 | 4.3 | 23:24 | 4.5 |
| Swansea | 06:10 | 9.2 | 18:31 | 9.2 |
| Tees | 03:31 | 5.2 | 15:37 | 5.4 |
| Weymouth | 06:35 | 2.0 | 19:01 | 2.0 |




**Synoptic situation**

A cold front associated with a low-pressure system to the west of Iceland will bring a band of patchy light rain to Ireland and Scotland through the afternoon. High pressure will remain in place across the rest of the British Isles, keeping conditions mostly dry and settled, with the exception of a few showers in the southeast through the afternoon.

**Highs and lows**

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

**Warmest:** Pershore, 19.0C
**Coldest:** Cairnwell, Aberdeenshire, 2.1C
**Wettest:** Harris Quidinish, Western Isles, 4.0mm
**Sunniest:** Powys, 8.7hrs*

**Sun and moon**

**For Greenwich**
**Sun rises:** 05.04
**Sun sets:** 20.48
**Moon rises:** 04.25
**Moon sets:** 19.47
**New Moon:** May 19

**Hours of darkness**

| | |
|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 21:56-04:11 |
| Belfast | 21:57-04:41 |
| Birmingham | 21:30-04:35 |
| Cardiff | 21:31-04:45 |
| Exeter | 21:29-04:50 |
| Glasgow | 21:57-04:27 |
| Liverpool | 21:39-04:35 |
| London | 21:19-04:33 |
| Manchester | 21:36-04:32 |
| Newcastle | 21:41-04:22 |
| Norwich | 21:18-04:22 |
| Penzance | 21:35-05:00 |
| Sheffield | 21:33-04:29 |

## Weather Eye

Paul Simons



There have been reports in some media of an imminent heatwave in the UK. But even though temperatures have climbed upwards and it is feeling pleasant in any sunshine, this is far short of a heatwave.

Last Sunday the temperature reached the dizzy heights of 21.6C at Kew Gardens in London, but even that fell short of record highs of 30C in mid-May in the past. As the Met Office pointed out, the definition of a heatwave in the UK is when temperatures reach a specific threshold for three days running, and that threshold depends on the area of the country. So, for example, the threshold is 28C in parts of the south, 27C over larger areas of the south and east, and 25C for much of Wales, southwest and northern England, as well as the whole of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Maybe the excitement about a heatwave is the result of the somewhat cool spring, so any warm weather feels invigorating. And there has been a sea change in conditions as the winds and rains of late have now largely cleared and the sun is starting to make more of an impact, especially with higher ultraviolet levels creating a risk of sunburn for many people.

The improvement in the weather, however, has hardly made much impact on overall temperatures this month. Most places have had unspectacular levels, hovering about average, although the Highlands have had some of the best of it with the highest temperature anomalies, which has been a consistent feature for northern Scotland this spring.

The recent spell of calm conditions has come courtesy of high pressure from the sub-tropical Azores in the mid-Atlantic stretching a finger of tranquillity over the UK. This Azores High often brings warm and calm weather, but this time it has been dragging down cool air from northern parts, and this has made it feel chilly at night. And there is not much sign of anything particularly warm in the near future, as temperatures remain close to average for the rest of May.

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# Sport

# How England's rock was reduced to tears after his turbulent year

Freddie Steward tells **Alex Lowe** about his disbelief at being his country's player of the year twice in a row

As general-secretary of the Rugby Players Association (RPA) during this most catastrophic of Gallagher Premiership seasons, Christian Day has had to make plenty of bad news phone calls. But this was not one of them. Day had the honour of informing Freddie Steward that he had been voted England's player of the year.

Down the line, Day could hear Steward choking up with emotion. The Leicester Tigers full back has been a Test player for two years and in both of them he was voted by his team-mates to be England's outstanding player — a unique achievement.

Steward has established himself as a rock of consistency and reliability in a turbulent period for the national team. The 22-year-old was presented with the award at a dinner in London last night, where the RPA crowned Jasper Wiese, the Leicester No 8, as the players' player of the year.

Tom Pearson, the London Irish flanker, won the young player award and Sadia Kabeya was named England women's player of the year.

Steward voted for Ollie Chessum, the Leicester forward, for the men's prize. "Not because he is my best mate but because he had a phenomenal Six Nations," he said. Lewis Ludlam, the Northampton Saints captain, and Ollie Lawrence, the Bath centre, both made the shortlist.

Not once did Steward consider himself to be a contender, even when he saw a missed call from Day.

"I thought it was strange for him to be calling me on a random day off," Steward said. "I suspected something was up and then he broke the news. I did get a bit emotional. To win an award like that is quite special. The campaign didn't go as we wanted it to and all of those emotions just go off.

MATT IMPEY/SHUTTERSTOCK



Steward admits his season was not the smoothest, particularly after his red card

**Defusing bombs...**

Defensive catches in the Six Nations since the beginning of 2022

| | |
|---|---|
| H Keenan (Ireland) | 50 |
| F Steward (England) | 46 |
| S Hogg (Scotland) | 31 |
| M Jaminet (France) | 31 |
| T Ramos (France) | 30 |

**...and breaking tackles**

Carry dominance among full backs since the beginning of 2022

| | |
|---|---|
| Steward (England) | 41% |
| Ramos (France) | 38.7% |
| L Williams (Wales) | 31.4% |
| A Capuozzo (Italy) | 30.6% |
| Hogg (Scotland) | 29.4% |

It was disbelief really, to win it two years on the bounce.

"To get it from your team-mates, it is the greatest compliment. They mean the most to you in that environment. They are your family while you are in there. To have that acknowledgement is incredible. I rang my mum and dad straight away and it took me a while to take it in."

For a man who makes a living by soaring through the skies to catch a rugby ball, there is something wonderfully grounded about Steward. His next day off was spent in the library at Loughborough University, where he spends most of his free time at the moment catching up on the lectures he has missed while on duty with England or Leicester.

Steward is in the final year of an economics degree. He sat his exams while in the England camp during the Six Nations with Charlotte Gibbons, the team's logistics manager, acting as invigilator. "I got them done and I passed them. It's good to have them off my mind," he said.

In a challenging year on the field for both club and country, Steward has enjoyed having the distraction of his studies. England won the Test series in Australia last summer but a disappointing autumn campaign led to Eddie Jones losing his job as head coach.

Although Steve Borthwick came in and transformed the environment, England did not manage to improve on their recent Six Nations record, winning only two of their five games for the third year running.

The championship finished on a bitter note for Steward, who was sent off in England's defeat by Ireland in Dublin for an accidental collision with Hugo Keenan, his opposite number. Steward was overcome by a different wave of emotion and locked himself in a cubicle so as not to affect his team-mates, who followed him down the tunnel at half-time.

"It's not been the smoothest ride with the red card in the Six Nations and I didn't play as well as I wanted to against Scotland," he said.

"But to have played for England for the past two years and in all those games has been an amazing experience. I feel I have got a lot better as a person and as a rugby player for it. I can never get into that mindset where I feel comfortable and I feel like I have earned my spot."

The England management team for the World Cup will be extremely familiar for Steward given he worked with five of the coaches at Leicester. Borthwick and Kevin Sinfield (defence) will be joined by Richard Wigglesworth (attack), Tom Harrison (scrum) and Aled Walters (strength and conditioning).

Wigglesworth hung up his boots to take charge of Leicester on an interim basis when Borthwick left and he did an impressive job in leading the club on a run of six straight wins to qualify for the Premiership semi-finals.

"Wiggy didn't get the plaudits he deserved for calling time on his playing career and taking control of a team that really needed someone at that time," Steward said. "He was a competitor as a player and he hasn't lost that as a coach.

"There's a fresh sense of positivity with England. There's been a massive shift in culture and attitude and the way that the boys want to work for each other and play for the shirt."

● *Freddie Steward was the winner of the England men's player of the year award at the Eterlast RPA Awards*

# Ben Curry set to miss World Cup

**Will Kelleher**
Deputy Rugby Correspondent

Ben Curry looks set to miss England's World Cup campaign after injuring his hamstring playing for Sale Sharks in their Gallagher Premiership semi-final on Sunday.

The 24-year-old flanker requires surgery after damaging the hamstring tendons in his left leg during the 21-13 win against Leicester Tigers and is likely to be out for at least four months, possibly six. It means that he will not only miss the Premiership final against Saracens next Saturday, but faces a fight to be fit in time for the World Cup, with England's opening match on September 9 against Argentina.

Curry was trapped in a ruck during the first half of Sale's victory, which led to his injury. He won a turnover at the breakdown, but in the process was hit by a number of Tigers forwards. Curry screamed out in pain and was taken off on a stretcher, later emerging on the bench with crutches. He will have surgery next week. It is a crushing blow for the young player, who has enjoyed a superb season for his club.

He posted on his Instagram account: "Gutted that my season is over like this but looking forward to supporting the lads over the next two weeks."

The Sale captain had finally broken into the England team this year during the Six Nations, while his twin brother, Tom, who has won 46 caps, was out with his own injury.

Steve Borthwick, the England head coach, will assemble his first summer training squad in four weeks' time, made up of those who did not take part in the Premiership play-offs. He will then add players from Leicester and Northampton Saints — the other Premiership semi-finalists — after they have had their mandatory rest in the middle of June, before finalising his training group with the Saracens and Sale players by the end of next month.

Sale will also be without another key forward for the final next weekend. Dan du Preez, the South African, will miss the game after injuring his shoulder in the semi-final.

Sale confirmed the news about Curry and Du Preez in a statement that read: "Both players will require surgery ahead of the new season. Ben and Dan have put in huge shifts to get us to Twickers and we can't thank them enough."

# Rune gets better of Djokovic again

CONTINUED FROM BACK

merely confirming that Nadal will appear in front of the press at his academy in Mallorca today.

"Rafa Nadal will hold a press conference at 4pm at the Rafa Nadal Academy by MoviStar to inform about his participation in Roland Garros," the spokesman said. "If he plays or not, the reasons either way will be only be communicated tomorrow."

Ever since Nadal withdrew from the Monte Carlo Masters last month, there was deep uncertainty surrounding his prospects of playing in Paris. Concerns grew last week when a short video emerged online of Nadal doubling over in discomfort during a practice session.

Nadal has held further training sessions since then but it appears he has accepted that he cannot compete with the best players in the world in ten days' time. It is very unusual for a player to hold a press conference off site in the build-up to a tournament for anything other than a withdrawal.

Inevitably, there will be fears over Nadal's future given that he will turn 37 on June 3. The area of concern is the psoas muscle in his left hip, which connects the spine to the legs.

Meanwhile, Novak Djokovic has been knocked out of the Italian Open by Denmark's Holger Rune, who became the first player since Nadal in 2021 to claim back-to-back victories over the world No 1 from Serbia.

Rune, the 20-year-old world No 7, won 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 and should be considered an outside contender for the title at Roland Garros.

Andy Murray suffered a setback in his preparations for the French Open with a heavy defeat by Stan Wawrinka in the second round of the Bordeaux Challenger, losing 6-3, 6-0.



**Djokovic's defeat in Italy was his second straight loss to Rune**

# Premiership finalists change kit to aid colour-blind viewers

**Will Kelleher**

Saracens and Sale Sharks will both wear their away kits for next Saturday's Gallagher Premiership final to help colour-blind viewers tell the teams apart.

As they finished the regular season top of the table and are the "home" team in the Twickenham final, Saracens were due to wear their traditional black home strip, with Sale in their maroon change kit. But Saracens will switch to white shirts to aid those with colour blindness.

According to Colour Blind Awareness — the non-profit organisation that supports those with the condition in the UK — the black/red contrast in sport is problematic.

Ollie Lewis, the head of broadcast at Premiership Rugby, said: "Premiership Rugby is determined to lead the way in an important but often overlooked area relating to colour blindness of sports fans. Our clubs have been overwhelmingly supportive of our ambition to eliminate kit clashes with a collective desire to increase inclusivity of our sport to all audiences.

"There is no better example than the Gallagher Premiership Rugby final, English rugby's showpiece event, to highlight the importance of this issue."

# Passenger set to lift Dante

**Rob Wright** Racing Editor

Sir Michael Stoute can saddle a record eighth winner of the Al Basti Equiworld Dubai Dante Stakes (3.35) through **Passenger** at York today.

Stoute took this prize with subsequent Derby winner Desert Crown 12 months ago. Passenger was unraced as a juvenile and has a long way to go before reaching that level but there was much to like about the style of his debut success at Newmarket last month.

The fact that Stoute is immediately stepping him up in grade — he has had only five runners in this Derby trial in the past ten years — is indicative of the regard in which Passenger is held and he can justify the decision.

**Stay Alert** is fancied to land the Al Basti Equiworld Dubai Middleton Stakes (2.25). This filly made good progress last season, including when overcoming trouble in running to win in group three company at Newbury in September.

Stay Alert has a high cruising speed and good turn of foot and, with this return to ten furlongs more likely to suit her than the hot favourite, Free Wind, she can spring a minor surprise.

## York

**Rob Wright**

**1.50** Designer (nb)
**2.25** Stay Alert (nap)
**3.00** Northern Express
**3.35** Passenger
**4.10** Walbank
**4.45** Cuban Thunder
**5.20** Land Legend

**Going:** good, good to firm in places — Racing TV

**Draw:** no advantage

### 1.50 Lindum York Handicap — ITV4
(£18,039: 5f) (14 runners)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (9) | 10030- **MOUNTAIN PEAK** 243 (D) E Walker 8-9-9 | O Murphy | ♦104 |
| 2 | (7) | 15602- **CLARENDON HOUSE** 240 (D) R Cowell 5-9-7 | D Muscutt | 102 |
| 3 | (3) | 62305- **REGIONAL** 225 (T,D) E Bethell 5-9-5 | C Rodriguez | 103 |
| 4 | (8) | 3020-0 **KORKER** 12 (CD) K R Burke 4-9-5 | C Lee | 102 |
| 5 | (2) | -14430 **ALLIGATOR ALLEY** 41 (T,CD) D O'Meara 6-9-5 | D Tudhope | 95 |
| 6 | (12) | 2000-5 **MONDAMMEJ** 19 (H,D) A Brittain 6-9-2 | C Hardie | 94 |
| 7 | (10) | 612-06 **BEDFORD FLYER** 96 (P,CD) M Appleby 5-9-2 | L Edmunds | 85 |
| 8 | (13) | 6152-4 **DESIGNER** 27 (CD) J Butler 4-9-2 | David Egan | 102 |
| 9 | (14) | 1043-4 **WHENTHEDEALINSDONE** 13 (P,D) R Teal 5-9-1 | W Buick | 97 |
| 10 | (5) | 13-400 **NOMADIC EMPIRE** 19 (V,C,D) D O'Meara 5-8-11 | Jason Watson | 90 |
| 11 | (6) | 34-430 **LORD RIDDIFORD** 85 (D) J J Quinn 8-8-9 | H Doyle | 94 |
| 12 | (4) | 6/14-3 **ILLUSIONIST** 19 (CD) G Tuer 6-8-9 | S James | 89 |
| 13 | (1) | 000-46 **COPPER KNIGHT** 19 (T,CD) T Easterby 9-8-7 | D Fentiman | 97 |
| 14 | (11) | 430-00 **GHATHANFAR** 19 (V,CD) T Waggott 7-8-4 | JP Sullivan | 90 |

4-1 Whenthedealinsdone, 15-2 Illusionist, Korker, 8-1 Mountain Peak, Designer, Alligator Alley, 10-1 Regional, 12-1 Copper Knight, Mondammej.

**Rob Wright's choice: Designer** made a pleasing return when fourth in a listed race at Bath; won her only previous start here **Dangers:** Korker, Copper Knight

### 2.25 Al Basti Equiworld Dubai Middleton Fillies' Stakes (Fillies' And Mares') — ITV4
(Group 2: £87,787: 1m 2f) (8)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (4) | /2021- **ARISTIA** 270 (CD) R Hannon 5-9-5 | S M Levey | ♦111 |
| 2 | (7) | 11312- **TOSKANA BELLE** 243 R Varian 4-9-5 | David Egan | 97 |
| 3 | (6) | 211/1- **FREE WIND** 320 (D) J & T Gosden 5-9-2 | L Dettori | 110 |
| 4 | (5) | 11204- **POPTRONIC** 237 (D) K R Burke 4-9-2 | S James | 93 |
| 5 | (8) | 200-23 **ROGUE MILLENNIUM** 18 (D) Tom Clover 4-9-2 | J Mitchell | 90 |
| 6 | (3) | 11243- **SEA SILK ROAD** 237 (D) W Haggas 4-9-2 | W Buick | 101 |
| 7 | (1) | 21140- **STATE OCCASION** 223 (CD) R Beckett 5-9-2 | R L Moore | 103 |
| 8 | (2) | 21510- **STAY ALERT** 215 (D) H Morrison 4-9-2 | O Murphy | 108 |

6-4 Free Wind, 7-2 Aristia, 5-1 Sea Silk Road, 7-1 Toskana Belle, 10-1 Stay Alert, 14-1 State Occasion, 16-1 Rogue Millennium, 20-1 Poptronic.

**Wright choice: Stay Alert** struggled in this highest level at Ascot but had previously won in fine style at Newbury **Dangers:** Free Wind, Sea Silk Road

### 3.00 Sky Bet Hambleton Handicap — ITV4
(£25,770: 1m) (20)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (2) | 02-010 **BOPEDRO** 19 (V,D) D O'Meara 7-9-12 | Jason Watson | 100 |
| 2 | (19) | 250-20 **BRUNCH** 26 (CD) M Dods 6-9-12 | C Beasley | 102 |
| 3 | (20) | 22100- **BLUE FOR YOU** 215 (V,CD) D O'Meara 5-9-11 | D Tudhope | ♦105 |
| 4 | (4) | /0460- **ASTRO KING** 215 (D) D & C Kubler 6-9-8 | R Kingscote | 91 |
| 5 | (1) | 311/1- **SYMBOL OF LIGHT** 476 (W,D) J Camacho 4-9-6 | P Hanagan | 101 |
| 6 | (10) | 4106-R **SNAZZY JAZZY** 26 (T) L Mullaney 8-9-6 | S B Kirrane (3) | -- |
| 7 | (6) | 3151-0 **CROUPIER** 47 (D) S & E Crisford 4-9-5 | W Buick | 89 |
| 8 | (3) | 0600-0 **CRUYFF TURN** 12 (CD) T Easterby 6-9-5 | D Allan | 93 |
| 9 | (13) | 53-120 **GWEEDORE** 6 (D) K Scott 6-9-5 | O Murphy | 96 |
| 10 | (5) | 406-51 **NORTHERN EXPRESS** 12 (C,D) M Dods 5-9-4 | P Mulrennan | 102 |
| 11 | (18) | 003-01 **ISLA KAI** 19 (D) N Tinkler 5-9-3 | R Scott | 94 |
| 12 | (8) | -10401 **IMPERIAL SANDS** 38 (B,D) A Watson 5-9-2 | H Doyle | 93 |
| 13 | (16) | 110-16 **POINT LYNAS** 30 (H,CD) E Bethell 4-9-2 | C Rodriguez | 93 |
| 14 | (17) | 25-034 **TOSHIZOU** 12 R Fell 5-9-1 | J P Spencer | 95 |
| 15 | (15) | 01-006 **EILEAN DUBH** 12 (CD) K R Burke 5-9-1 | C Lee | 82 |
| 16 | (9) | 2/13-1 **ASSESSMENT** 31 (D) Sir M Stoute 4-9-0 | R L Moore | 86 |
| 17 | (12) | 1220-1 **MASTER RICHARD** 13 (CD) Mrs A Duffield 4-8-13 | David Egan | 90 |
| 18 | (7) | -32120 **TROPEZ POWER** 47 (D) J J Quinn 4-8-11 | JP Sullivan | 82 |
| 19 | (14) | 00065/ **RISE HALL** 796 (B,D) G Oldroyd 8-8-10 | T Eaves | -- |
| 20 | (11) | 0063-0 **THE TURPINATOR** 12 (D) G Tuer 6-8-10 | S James | 88 |

100-30 Assessment, 7-1 Northern Express, 15-2 Cruyff Turn, 10-1 Blue For You, Isla Kai, Imperial Sands, 12-1 Brunch, Toshizou, Eilean Dubh, Croupier.

**Wright choice: Northern Express** beat subsequent winner Pisanello at Thirsk; he has an excellent record at this track **Dangers:** Assessment, Cruyff Turn

### 3.35 Al Basti Equiworld Dubai Dante Stakes — ITV4
(Group 2: 3-Y-O: £109,025: 1m 2f) (12)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (7) | 11 **CANBERRA LEGEND** 29 J Ferguson 9-2 | D Muscutt | 104 |
| 2 | (3) | 11- **CONTINUOUS** 230 A P O'Brien (Ire) 9-2 | R L Moore | 103 |
| 3 | (11) | 2244-3 **DANCING MAGIC** 28 R Teal 9-2 | K Shoemark | 104 |
| 4 | (8) | 1533-1 **DEAR MY FRIEND** 41 Charlie Johnston 9-2 | A Atzeni | 101 |
| 5 | (5) | 122-1 **EPICTETUS** 23 (D) J & T Gosden 9-2 | L Dettori | ♦112 |
| 6 | (10) | 41131- **FLYING HONOURS** 222 (D) C Appleby 9-2 | W Buick | 110 |
| 7 | (12) | 05-433 **KILLYBEGS WARRIOR** 29 Charlie Johnston 9-2 | F Norton | 101 |
| 8 | (9) | 10- **KING OF STEEL** 208 R Varian 9-2 | K Stott | 101 |
| 9 | (4) | 1-2 **LIBERTY LANE** 28 (BF) K R Burke 9-2 | C Lee | 96 |
| 10 | (1) | 1 **PASSENGER** 28 Sir M Stoute 9-2 | R Kingscote | 98 |
| 11 | (2) | 4011-2 **THE FOXES** 28 A Balding 9-2 | O Murphy | 108 |
| 12 | (6) | 51-1 **WHITE BIRCH** 46 (T,D) John Murphy (Ire) 9-2 | S Foley | 105 |

7-2 Epictetus, 4-1 Flying Honours, 11-2 Passenger, 6-1 Continuous, 13-2 Canberra Legend, 7-1 The Foxes, 10-1 White Birch, 16-1 Dear My Friend.

**Wright choice: Passenger** made a big impression when cruising to victory on his debut at Newmarket; sure to improve **Dangers:** Epictetus, Canberra Legend

**Blinkered first time: Fontwell Park** 7.05 Energy One. **Newmarket** 8.40 Pierce. **Salisbury** 4.55 Feyha; 4.55 Caraxes. **York** 5.20 Latin Verse.

### 4.10 British EBF 40th Anniversary Westow Stakes (Listed) — ITV4
(3-Y-O: £39,697: 5f) (11)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (5) | 1-1 **CHANGEOFMIND** 22 (D) D Carroll 9-4 | H Shaw | 93 |
| 2 | (9) | 31-411 **GREAT STATE** 12 (D) R Fahey 9-4 | O Murphy | 92 |
| 3 | (6) | 3414- **HISPANIC** 208 (B,D) A P O'Brien (Ire) 9-4 | R L Moore | 89 |
| 4 | (10) | 14026- **LOOKING FOR LYNDA** 166 (D) K R Burke 9-4 | S James | 101 |
| 5 | (2) | 411-04 **MICHAELA'S BOY** 41 (D) M Appleby 9-4 | F Larson | 78 |
| 6 | (8) | 21220- **ROCKET RODNEY** 259 (D) G Scott 9-4 | D Muscutt | ♦104 |
| 7 | (4) | 33010- **ROGUE SPIRIT** 223 (D) Tom Clover 9-4 | J Mitchell | 99 |
| 8 | (7) | 2123- **WALBANK** 295 (T,CD) D Loughnane 9-4 | K Stott | 102 |
| 9 | (1) | 1166- **KATEY KONTENT** 279 (D) C Cox 8-13 | K Shoemark | 98 |
| 10 | (11) | 216- **PILLOW TALK** 336 (CD) K R Burke 8-13 | C Lee | 100 |
| 11 | (3) | 1-2 **SILENT WORDS** 11 (D) K Ryan 8-13 | D Tudhope | 94 |

7-2 Rocket Rodney, 9-2 Walbank, 15-2 Changeofmind, Silent Words, 8-1 Great State, Hispanic, 10-1 Rogue Spirit, 12-1 Pillow Talk, Katey Kontent.

**Wright choice: Walbank** has been off since finishing third at Goodwood last July; strong form claims if fully fit **Dangers:** Pillow Talk, Katey Kontent

### 4.45 Frank Whittle Partnership ebfstallions.com Maiden Stakes
(2-Y-O: £15,462: 6f) (11)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (9) | **AIR FORCE ONE** D O'Meara 9-7 | P Mulrennan | -- |
| 2 | (10) | 2 **CUBAN THUNDER** 30 (BF) D F Davis 9-7 | K Stott | 97 |
| 3 | (6) | 2 **EMPEROR OF ROME** 34 (P,BF) A P O'Brien (Ire) 9-7 | R L Moore | ♦99 |
| 4 | (4) | **IMPRESSIVE ACT** C Appleby 9-7 | W Buick | -- |
| 5 | (5) | **MASTER FRANCA** H Palmer 9-7 | O Murphy | -- |
| 6 | (2) | 6 **SOCIALISE** 26 N Tinkler 9-7 | F McManoman | 69 |
| 7 | (7) | **TICKTYBOO** N Tinkler 9-7 | R Scott | -- |
| 8 | (1) | **VARDEN** K Ryan 9-7 | T Eaves | -- |
| 9 | (8) | **WE NEVER STOP** K Ryan 9-7 | S Gray | -- |
| 10 | (3) | **MANALI** J Butler 9-2 | D Keenan | -- |
| 11 | (11) | **SUE'S LITTLE ANGEL** R Fahey 9-2 | C Hardie | -- |

9-4 Cuban Thunder, 11-4 Impressive Act, 9-2 Emperor Of Rome, 8-1 Air Force One, 12-1 Sue's Little Angel, Master Franca, 14-1 Varden, 20-1 Ticktyboo, We Never Stop.

### 5.20 Collective Green Energy Handicap
(3-Y-O: £12,885: 1m 4f) (12)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (4) | 1-3 **CHESSPIECE** 27 S & E Crisford 9-10 | R L Moore | ♦98 |
| 2 | (12) | 012 **KNOCKBREX** 19 Charlie Johnston 9-4 | A Atzeni | 91 |
| 3 | (9) | 412-31 **TABARETTA** 108 (D) C Appleby 9-4 | W Buick | 82 |
| 4 | (2) | 544-1 **TORRE DEL ORO** 40 (D) A Balding 9-1 | O Murphy | 65 |
| 5 | (10) | 513-03 **HIGH HONOUR** 11 (P,T) C Appleby 9-1 | J P Spencer | 81 |
| 6 | (11) | 00-21 **LAND LEGEND** 64 J Ferguson 9-1 | D Muscutt | 95 |
| 7 | (6) | 0444- **BALTIC VOYAGE** 211 R Beckett 8-12 | L Dettori | 84 |
| 8 | (7) | 6213-5 **HOPE YOU CAN RUN** 20 (P) Charlie Johnston 8-12 | R Kingscote | 87 |
| 9 | (8) | 631-2 **RATHGAR** 11 (BF) Jack Channon 8-11 | C Beasley | 87 |
| 10 | (3) | 5215 **LATIN VERSE** 36 (B,D) R Beckett 8-8 | David Egan | 80 |
| 11 | (5) | 0-310 **GREAT BEDWYN** 29 R Hannon 8-7 | H Doyle | 8 |
| 12 | (1) | 360-13 **ROLL IT IN GLITTER** 2 M & D Easterby 8-4 | Joanna Mason | 73 |

9-2 Knockbrex, 11-2 Tabaretta, 6-1 Torre Del Oro, Chesspiece, 13-2 Land Legend, 7-1 Rathgar, 10-1 Baltic Voyage, 12-1 Roll It In Glitter.

## Fontwell Park

**Rob Wright**

**4.50** Somespring Special
**5.25** Mickyh
**5.55** Glengeever
**6.30** Small Bad Bob
**7.05** Pure Theatre
**7.40** Post No Bills
**8.15** Scamallach Liath

**Going:** good — Sky Sports Racing

### 4.50 Novices' Hurdle (£4,357: 2m 2f) (7)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6P- **CLINTON LANE** 49 M Gillard 5-11-1 | F Gillard (3) |
| 2 | 60- **ELZAARO** 39 K Jewell 5-11-1 | T Cannon |
| 3 | 1/50- **HUGUENEAU** 42 Mrs L Hill 6-11-1 | Mr B Sutton (7) |
| 4 | P531- **SOMESPRING SPECIAL** 44 (T,CD) A Honeyball 5-11-1 | B Godfrey (3) |
| 5 | 2- **STILETTO** 20 (T) K Burke 5-11-1 | T Bellamy |
| 6 | P5/ **STORMBOMBER** F239 M Madgwick 7-11-1 | H Kimber (3) |
| 7 | 2F0-1 **KOMEDY KICKS** 10 (P) M Harris 4-10-9 | H Cobden |

11-10 Komedy Kicks, 6-4 Somespring Special, 9-2 Stiletto, 20-1 Hugueneau, 66-1 Stormbomber, 100-1 Clinton Lane, Elzaaro.

### 5.25 Handicap Hurdle (£3,406: 2m 2f) (13)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | RP12- **STANLEY PINCOMBE** 32 C Gordon 6-12-0 | N Scholfield |
| 2 | 351-3 **TARA ITI** 4 (BF,CD) G L Moore 5-11-11 | Rob Hargreaves (10) |
| 3 | 0603- **MISTRAL LADY** 27 P Hobbs & J White 5-11-11 | Sean Houlihan |
| 4 | 4053- **DICKENS** 50 (H) A King 5-11-10 | T Bellamy |
| 5 | 4002- **CHARLIE MY BOY** 78 K Burke 6-11-10 | H Cobden |
| 6 | 55-0 **HE'S A LATCHICO** 17 G L Moore 5-11-3 | Jamie Moore |
| 7 | 0500- **UNWANTED ATTENTION** 134 (T) R Potter 5-11-1 | F Lambert (5) |
| 8 | 522F- **MICKYH** 27 (P,T,BF) N Mulholland 7-10-13 | C Quinn (5) |
| 9 | P4PP- **GREEN OR BLACK** 68 (P,T) N Mulholland 11-10-12 | Mr E Rees |
| 10 | 3P0P- **MISS FEDORA** 25 Seamus Mullins 4-10-12 | M G Nolan |
| 11 | 03/4- **HARRY HAZARD** 366 (P) A Irvine 9-10-4 | P Armson (3) |
| 12 | 0446- **MR SNOW WAY** 27 (B) J Scott 6-10-3 | R Dingle |
| 13 | 0P50- **ONNAROLL** 24 (H) Cynthia Woods 5-10-2 | J Best |

3-1 Mickyh, 4-1 He's A Latchico, 5-1 Stanley Pincombe, 13-2 Tara Iti, 8-1 Dickens, Mistral Lady, 10-1 Charlie My Boy, 14-1 Mr Snow Way.

### 5.55 Handicap Chase
(£6,337: 2m 3f 104yd) (4)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | /1P0- **JERRASH** 46 G L Moore 6-11-10 | Jamie Moore |
| 2 | 0033- **ANY NEWS** 61 (P,T) N Mulholland 8-11-5 | H Cobden |
| 3 | 3224- **FAROUK DE CHENEAU** 205 (T,BF) A Honeyball 8-10-11 | S Twiston-Davies |
| 4 | 116P- **GLENGEEVER** 124 (W,P) B Lund 7-10-8 | B R Jones |

6-4 Jerrash, 9-4 Farouk De Cheneau, 5-2 Any News, 10-1 Glengeever.

### 6.30 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m 3f) (5)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | /F62- **IN THE AIR** F5 G L Moore 5-12-0 | Jamie Moore |
| 2 | 6464- **AMERICAN GERRY** 27 (D) H Morrison 7-11-7 | Mr N Brennan |
| 3 | 4035- **WATERGRANGE JACK** 98 (D) N Mulholland 7-11-5 | S Twiston-Davies |
| 4 | 1234- **TIMES ARE BLUE** 174 O Sherwood 5-10-10 | B J Powell |
| 5 | 52-31 **SMALL BAD BOB** 4 (CD) P Henderson 8-10-10 | N Scholfield |

7-4 In The Air, 3-1 Small Bad Bob, 9-2 Watergrange Jack, 5-1 American Gerry, 6-1 Times Are Blue.

### 7.05 Handicap Hurdle (£3,406: 2m 6f) (8)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10U-R **ENERGY ONE** 17 (B,T) P Hobbs & J White 5-12-1 | Elizabeth Gale (10) |
| 2 | 021-3 **PURE THEATRE** 5 A Honeyball 5-12-0 | J Martin (7) |
| 3 | 1356- **MICRONORMOUS** 57 (P) D Pipe 5-11-13 | J Tudor |
| 4 | /3U5- **MIDNIGHT GOLD** 110 (P) N Mulholland 6-11-1 | H Cobden |
| 5 | 400-1 **BABY SHAM** 9 Seamus Mullins 5-10-5(7ex) | M G Nolan |
| 6 | 065F- **TUSCAN ROSE** 35 N Mulholland 5-10-2 | S Twiston-Davies |
| 7 | 00F4- **HAPPY RETURNS** 42 N Mulholland 6-10-2 | J Best |
| 8 | 60P0- **CAN YOU SEE HER** 21 (H) P Gundry 6-10-2 | H Kimber (3) |

5-2 Pure Theatre, 4-1 Baby Sham, 5-1 Micronormous, 6-1 Midnight Gold, 7-1 Happy Returns, 8-1 Energy One, 12-1 Tuscan Rose, 16-1 Can You See Her.

### 7.40 Handicap Chase (£3,406: 2m 2f) (9)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | P/24- **THE CATHAL DON** 39 (T) R Bandey 7-12-0 | H Bannister |
| 2 | 101/5 **BIG 'N BETTER** 8 (C) M Madgwick 11-11-13 | B J Powell |
| 3 | 2022- **POST NO BILLS** 25 (BF) R Potter 8-11-8 | C Quinn (5) |
| 4 | 6025- **MARTIN SPIRIT** 58 (T) P Butler 6-11-2 | Jamie Moore |
| 5 | P363- **MILLIES MITE** 44 (T) K Jewell 7-10-9 | C Hammond |
| 6 | /135- **ANNIE NAIL** 296 (BF,C) Alexandra Dunn 6-10-9 | P Armson (3) |
| 7 | /501- **PLEASURE GARDEN** 39 K Jewell 6-10-9 | T Cannon |
| 8 | /536- **JOHNNY MAC** 34 (H,T) T R Gretton 8-10-2 | R T Dunne |
| 9 | 5P3P- **CLONDAW ROBIN** 21 (P) A Irvine 10-10-2 | J Best |

3-1 Post No Bills, 7-2 Pleasure Garden, 4-1 The Cathal Don, 6-1 Annie Nail, 8-1 Martin Spirit, 10-1 Millies Mite, 12-1 Johnny Mac, 20-1 others.

### 8.15 Handicap Hurdle (£3,433: 3m 2f) (7)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 05P-5 **FIFTY BALL** 8 (P) G L Moore 8-12-0 | N F Houlihan (3) |
| 2 | 106P- **MOON KING** 139 (T,V) C Longsdon 7-11-10 | B Roberts (7) |
| 3 | U31P- **CARLOW FARMER** 40 (P,T) M Harris 10-11-7 | H Reed |
| 4 | 1405- **GOOD NEWS** 25 (V,CD) Mrs L Richards 11-11-7 | T Cannon |
| 5 | 3322- **SCAMALLACH LIATH** 46 (P) O Sherwood 6-11-6 | B J Powell |
| 6 | 3/P0- **PONTRESINA** 59 (P) B Lund 10-11-1 | E Collier (7) |
| 7 | 1P64- **SAN PEDRO** 25 (P) P Henderson 6-10-2 | H Cobden |

11-8 Scamallach Liath, 4-1 Fifty Ball, 11-2 Carlow Farmer, 7-1 Moon King, 8-1 San Pedro, 10-1 Good News, 20-1 Pontresina.

## Newmarket

**Rob Wright**

**5.15** Flag Of St George
**5.45** Maid In London
**6.20** Spring Dawn
**6.55** Brasil Power
**7.30** Cumulonimbus
**8.05** Fox Journey
**8.40** Fierce

**Going:** good to soft — Racing TV

**Draw:** no advantage

### 5.15 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £4,320: 6f) (14)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (10) | **ART HISTORIAN** W Haggas 9-7 | C Fallon |
| 2 | (8) | **CENTURION DREAM** R Hughes 9-7 | D Probert |
| 3 | (4) | 3 **GOODEVENINGMRBOND** 26 Jack Jones 9-7 | Dylan Hogan |
| 4 | (7) | 66 **STATES** 14 R Hughes 9-7 | F Marsh |
| 5 | (3) | **TOWNSEND MANOR** K P De Foy 9-7 | B Sayette (3) |
| 6 | (11) | 3 **WHITE CHRISTMAS** 11 M Bell 9-7 | James Doyle |
| 7 | (9) | 4 **FLAG OF ST GEORGE** 30 J Chapple-Hyam 9-5 | R Tart |
| 8 | (6) | **MAGNIFICENTFORCE** J Chapple-Hyam 9-5 | T Jakes (7) |
| 9 | (12) | **SUGARLOAF LENNY** W Knight 9-5 | R Havlin |
| 10 | (13) | **SURVIVALIST** J Tate 9-5 | N Callan |
| 11 | (1) | 0 **DIDDY MAN** 17 T Dascombe 9-3 | L Keniry |
| 12 | (5) | 0 **MAYMAY** 13 K P De Foy 9-0 | H Davies (3) |
| 13 | (14) | 5 **MIMI KAKUSHI** 27 G Boughey 9-0 | B Curtis |
| 14 | (2) | **TOKYO DREAMER** S C Williams 9-0 | P J McDonald |

3-1 Flag Of St George, 9-2 White Christmas, 5-1 Art Historian, 8-1 others.

### 5.45 Fillies' Handicap (£5,234: 1m) (14)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (4) | 22-11 **MAYFAIR GOLD** 14 (D) A King 4-10-2 | R Coakley |
| 2 | (2) | 051-1 **ICY DIP** 29 (D) H Morrison 3-9-8 | D Probert |
| 3 | (8) | 52-02 **ZABBIE** 12 R Hannon 3-9-7 | Alec Voikhansky (5) |
| 4 | (3) | 4-1 **MAID IN LONDON** 33 H Palmer 3-9-7 | H Davies (3) |
| 5 | (12) | 2-21 **STAR GUEST** 124 (D) C Appleby 3-9-7 | James Doyle |
| 6 | (9) | 0-361 **TULEKYA** 19 (P,D) K P De Foy 3-9-6 | B Sayette (3) |
| 7 | (14) | 335- **BLOOMWITHGRACE** 209 T Dascombe 3-9-6 | L Keniry |
| 8 | (1) | 540-3 **FARIBA** 43 (D) K P De Foy 3-9-5 | N Callan |
| 9 | (6) | 225-4 **BACCARAT BABY** 135 R Eddery 3-9-4 | P J McDonald |
| 10 | (11) | 352-5 **CANADIANSMOKESHOW** 40 (BF) S P C Woods 3-9-4 | B Curtis |
| 11 | (10) | 440- **MILDYJAMA** 211 R Beckett 3-9-3 | H Crouch |
| 12 | (7) | 20-0 **BREAK THE SPELL** 22 M Attwater 3-9-3 | W Carson |
| 13 | (13) | 20-50 **ZARA'S RETURN** 16 W Stone 3-8-10 | J Fanning |
| 14 | (5) | 0-263 **RISOTTO** 16 J Chapple-Hyam 3-8-9 | T Jakes (7) |

100-30 Star Guest, 4-1 Icy Dip, 6-1 Mayfair Gold, 8-1 Tulekya, 10-1 others.

### 6.20 Fillies' Stakes (3-Y-O: £5,400: 7f) (11)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (1) | 46- **ACHILLEA** 313 D Ivory 9-2 | Jefferson Smith |
| 2 | (11) | **AL HAAN** W Haggas 9-2 | C Fallon |
| 3 | (2) | **ALI JEWELS** W Jarvis 9-2 | B Sayette (3) |
| 4 | (10) | **BEAUTIFUL SUMMER** (W) C Appleby 9-2 | N Callan |
| 5 | (7) | 46 **DALRYMPLE** 12 E Dunlop 9-2 | C Planas (5) |
| 6 | (9) | **ENGLISH ROSE** (H) C Appleby 9-2 | H Davies (3) |
| 7 | (8) | 4-0 **LUDDEN LASS** 70 (W) C Hills 9-2 | J Fanning |
| 8 | (4) | 3-0 **LUDMILLA** 29 J & T Gosden 9-2 | R Havlin |
| 9 | (5) | **PLATINUM JUBILEE** (W) A Balding 9-2 | D Probert |
| 10 | (3) | 2 **SPRING DAWN** 28 C Appleby 9-2 | James Doyle |
| 11 | (6) | **VALTELLINA** Harry Eustace 9-2 | Kaiya Fraser (7) |

Evens Spring Dawn, 6-1 Al Haan, Ludmilla, 7-1 Beautiful Summer, 8-1 others.

### 6.55 Handicap (£7,851: 7f) (8)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (5) | 10-12 **PRISCILLA'S WISH** 21 (D) P McBride 5-9-10 | H Davies (3) |
| 2 | (8) | 630-5 **GLOBAL ESTEEM** 15 (D) J Gallagher 6-9-10 | Kaiya Fraser |
| 3 | (6) | 03536 **LORD RAPSCALLION** 13 (B,T,D) S C Williams 7-9-9 | R Dawson |
| 4 | (7) | 040-0 **MAKEEN** 19 (D) J Camacho 6-9-9 | G Lee |
| 5 | (4) | 000-1 **BRASIL POWER** 15 (T,D) G Boughey 4-9-9 | C Planas (5) |
| 6 | (1) | -0344 **STOCKPYLE** 12 (P,D) W Muir & C Grassick 4-9-5 | P J McDonald |
| 7 | (3) | 23-32 **GRANARY QUEEN** 22 (P,BF,D) E J-Houghton 5-9-4 | Georgia Dobie (3) |
| 8 | (2) | 0460- **ROYAL MUSKETEER** 147 (CD) Steph Hollinshead 5-9-2 | D Probert |

9-4 Brasil Power, 9-2 Priscilla's Wish, 5-1 Global Esteem, 6-1 others.

### 7.30 Handicap (£7,851: 1m 4f) (7)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (2) | 113-6 **CUMULONIMBUS** 24 (P,BF) C Fellowes 4-9-10 | H Davies (3) |
| 2 | (6) | 000-0 **HASTY SAILOR** 15 (T,D) Sir M Stoute 6-9-9 | C Fallon |
| 3 | (3) | 614-3 **SONNERIE POWER** 34 (D) R Varian 4-9-9 | R Dawson |
| 4 | (7) | 35-60 **CAPTAIN KANE** 16 (D) G Scott 4-9-6 | B Sayette (3) |
| 5 | (4) | 54-31 **APPIER** 16 (D) S P C Woods 4-9-5 | B Curtis |
| 6 | (5) | 223-2 **LISEO** 21 (T) S & E Crisford 4-9-5 | James Doyle |
| 7 | (1) | 2-164 **STAR ANGEL** 20 (P,BF,D) G Boughey 4-9-2 | C Planas (5) |

3-1 Appier, 100-30 Cumulonimbus, 4-1 Sonnerie Power, 9-2 Liseo, 6-1 others.

### 8.05 Handicap (3-Y-O: £7,851: 1m 2f) (9)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (4) | -1226 **MIGHTY RIVER** 46 (D) J Tate 9-10 | N Callan |
| 2 | (3) | 31-52 **CONNEMARA COAST** 29 R Hughes 9-8 | D Probert |
| 3 | (5) | 20-50 **POL ROGER** 19 M Dods 9-7 | P Dennis |
| 4 | (2) | 2331- **CAVERN CLUB** 150 (P) M Botti 9-5 | R Havlin |
| 5 | (9) | 013- **MINDSET** 211 M Bell 9-4 | H Crouch |
| 6 | (8) | 230-3 **POWER OF GOLD** 14 H Palmer 9-2 | James Doyle |
| 7 | (7) | 644- **FOX JOURNEY** 190 Sir M Stoute 9-0 | H Davies (3) |
| 8 | (1) | 642- **MUIR WOOD** 147 Charlie Johnston 8-13 | J Fanning |
| 9 | (6) | 0-40 **RHYTHM AND TYNE** 104 (P) T Kent 8-9 | R Dawson |

2-1 Connemara Coast, 4-1 Fox Journey, 6-1 Power Of Gold, 7-1 others.

### 8.40 Handicap (3-Y-O: £5,234: 6f) (13)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (3) | 24-26 **BEAUTIFUL SUNRISE** 78 J Ferguson 9-11 | R Coakley |
| 2 | (9) | 3234- **FIERCE** 154 G L Moore 9-9 | T P Queally |
| 3 | (8) | 542-1 **ERTEBAT** 15 (B,T,D) H Palmer 9-9 | James Doyle |
| 4 | (2) | -3611 **QUINAULT** 15 (H,T,D) S C Williams 9-8 | L Catton (5) |
| 5 | (11) | 662-4 **PIERCE** 37 (B) C Cox 9-7 | A Kirby |
| 6 | (6) | 60-1 **AJJAJ** 15 R Hannon 9-7 | Alec Voikhansky (5) |
| 7 | (5) | 13-34 **CHAMPAGNE SARAH** 41 M Murphy & M Keady 9-7 | B Curtis |
| 8 | (7) | 02461 **HIATUS** 10 (D) C Allen 9-7(6ex) | N Callan |
| 9 | (10) | 601-0 **SKALLYWAG BAY** 14 (D) R Hannon 9-6 | S Hitchcott |
| 10 | (13) | -3424 **CONFEDERATION** 10 (T) Dylan Cunha 9-4 | Kyle Strydom |
| 11 | (12) | 15360 **WARMINSTER** 41 (D) J Ryan 9-2 | C Fallon |
| 12 | (1) | 000- **MONT VALLON** 147 (T) S C Williams 8-8 | J Fanning |
| 13 | (4) | 300 **MINE THAT SHIP** 22 Alice Haynes 8-5 | K O'Neill |

3-1 Quinault, 9-2 Ertebat, 6-1 Hiatus, 7-1 Ajjaj, 8-1 Fierce, 10-1 others.

## Perth

**Rob Wright**

**2.15** Lacila Blue
**2.50** Bodhisattva
**3.25** Haribo Collonges
**4.00** Scots Poet
**4.35** Everyday Champagne
**5.06** Friary Rock
**5.38** Beauty To Behold

**Going:** good to soft, good in places — Racing TV

### 2.15 Maiden Hurdle (£4,357: 2m) (8)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3U0P- **BELLANEY LORD** 62 (H,T) S Crawford (Ire) 7-11-4 | D Jacob |
| 2 | 463- **BIX BEIDERBECKE** 20 L Russell 5-11-4 | P W Wadge (5) |
| 3 | UF0P- **CAPTAIN NELSON** 20 (T) R M Smith 5-11-4 | W Shanahan (7) |
| 4 | 0/40- **DESERT STRANGER** 20 R M Smith 5-11-4 | R McLernon |
| 5 | F0- **BAY WEST** 26 (H) A B Hamilton 4-10-12 | Thomas Dowson |
| 6 | U- **KNOCKNACREE** 31 G Elliott (Ire) 4-10-12 | S Bowen |
| 7 | 5035- **LACILA BLUE** 54 N Alexander 5-10-11 | C O'Farrell |
| 8 | FP20- **SUNSHINE GIRL** 42 (T) S Crawford (Ire) 6-10-11 | Mr S Connor |

5-2 Bix Beiderbecke, 100-30 Bellaney Lord, 7-2 Knocknacree, 5-1 Lacila Blue, 6-1 Sunshine Girl, 20-1 Desert Stranger, 25-1 Bay West, 33-1 Captain Nelson.

### 2.50 Handicap Chase (£6,337: 3m) (4)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | /U12- **CONKWELL LEGEND** 39 N Mulholland 9-11-10 | A P Heskin |
| 2 | 4131- **WESTERN RUN** 19 (P) R M Smith 8-11-4 | R Mania |
| 3 | 5400- **BODHISATTVA** 27 (P) G Elliott (Ire) 6-11-4 | S Bowen |
| 4 | /0F-3 **GET 'EM IN** 12 (T) M Barnes 7-10-5 | Thomas Dowson |

10-11 Conkwell Legend, 15-8 Bodhisattva, 4-1 Western Run, 50-1 Get 'em In.

### 3.25 Handicap Hurdle (£5,281: 2m 4f) (11)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | /6F-1 **TREBIZOND** 12 (T) R M Smith 6-12-0 | G Sheehan |
| 2 | 4604- **NEIGH BOTHA** 46 (P,T) G Elliott (Ire) 6-11-11 | S Bowen |
| 3 | 0043- **AURORA THUNDER** 27 (D) L Russell 9-11-9 | P W Wadge (5) |
| 4 | 5361- **HARIBO COLLONGES** 20 (H,T,CD) P Neville 6-11-7 | B Hughes |
| 5 | 0605- **ENEMY COAST AHEAD** 20 (P,T,D) K Scott 9-11-7 | T Reilly (7) |
| 6 | 0561- **KAJAKI** 21 (V,CD) N Richards 10-11-4 | D McMenamin |
| 7 | 6601- **NOWINITTOWINIT** 22 (CD) S Crawford (Ire) 7-11-4 | Mr S Connor (7) |
| 8 | P601- **BORN FAMOUS** 20 (CD) I Jardine 6-11-1 | C O'Farrell |
| 9 | 11F0- **RICKETY GATE** 21 (D) N Richards 8-10-12 | S Quinlan |
| 10 | P612- **DARKEST DAY** 21 (P,T) W Young Jnr 8-10-2 | D Johnston (7) |
| 11 | 0/6-3 **PLACEDELA CONCORDE** 12 (T,C) M Barnes 10-10-2 | Thomas Dowson |

4-1 Kajaki, 9-2 Haribo Collonges, 5-1 Nowinittowinit, Trebizond, 15-2 Born Famous, Aurora Thunder, 10-1 Neigh Botha, Darkest Day.

### 4.00 Handicap Hurdle (£6,337: 2m) (8)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | P430/ **BALLYCOOSE** 397 (T,D) S Crawford (Ire) 6-12-0 | D Jacob |
| 2 | 123P- **BERTIE'S WISH** F6 (H,T) J Candlish 5-11-12 | S Quinlan |
| 3 | 260-0 **SOCIALIST AGENDA** 9 (V,D) L Morgan 7-11-12 | A Wedge |
| 4 | 6253- **GLENTRUAN** 21 (P,T) P Neville 8-11-10 | A Doyle (5) |
| 5 | 1206- **WELL PLANTED** F10 (CD) R M Smith 6-11-8 | B Hughes |
| 6 | 6066- **PALM BEACH** 42 (P) J E Dixon 6-11-8 | Mr John Dixon (7) |
| 7 | 5231- **CALICO** 31 (T,D) G Elliott (Ire) 4-11-3 | S Bowen |
| 8 | 3134- **SCOTS POET** 27 (T,D) Ewan Whillans 7-10-12 | C O'Farrell |

15-8 Calico, 9-2 Scots Poet, 5-1 Bertie's Wish, 6-1 Glentruan, Ballycoose, 7-1 Well Planted, 25-1 Socialist Agenda, 33-1 Palm Beach.

### 4.35 Handicap Chase (£5,809: 3m) (7)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 611P- **METHODTOTHEMADNESS** 54 (T,D) L Russell 9-12-0 | P W Wadge (5) |
| 2 | /10P- **BREAKING THE ICE** 165 (W,CD) G Bewley 8-11-11 | J Bewley |
| 3 | /551- **UPTOWN HARRY** 53 (P,CD) Mrs J Walton 9-11-5 | R Chapman |
| 4 | 64PB- **WILD POLLY** 20 R Dobbin 9-11-2 | Doubtful |
| 5 | 1622- **EVERYDAY CHAMPAGNE** 40 (V,D) N Richards 7-11-2 | S Quinlan |
| 6 | /20P- **FRAU GEORGIA** 32 (P,T,CD) N Mulholland 9-11-1 | R McLernon |
| 7 | 301-2 **VICTORY ECHO** 6 (T,CD) M Barnes 10-10-9 | C Rabbitt (7) |

5-2 Everyday Champagne, 11-4 Uptown Harry, 100-30 Methodtothemadness, 5-1 Victory Echo, 8-1 Breaking The Ice, 14-1 Frau Georgia.

### 5.06 Handicap Chase (£4,753: 2m 4f) (9)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 0412- **SWORD OF FATE** 22 (CD) L Kerr 10-12-1 | B Hughes |
| 2 | 4142- **FRIARY ROCK** 253 (V,BF,CD) L Morgan 8-12-1 | A Wedge |
| 3 | 4144- **SPARK OF MADNESS** 40 (T,C,D) L Russell 7-11-12 | S Mulqueen |
| 4 | 0P00- **BROADWAY JOE** 31 (P,D) N Alexander 9-11-8 | B Lynn (3) |
| 5 | P00P- **MRS PAISLEY** 62 G Elliott (Ire) 5-11-4 | S Bowen |
| 6 | P21-0 **ONE FOR DAN** 12 R Ross 6-10-13 | R Chapman |
| 7 | 0451- **AZOF DES MOTTES** 31 (T) G Bewley 6-10-12 | J Bewley (3) |
| 8 | 2432- **IZZY'S CHAMPION** 50 (P,T,D) L Russell 9-10-2 | P W Wadge |
| 9 | 235P- **SHANBALLY ROSE** 40 (P,CD) R Dobbin 9-10-2 | D Johnston (7) |

3-1 Azof Des Mottes, 10-3 Sword Of Fate, 7-2 Friary Rock, 5-1 Izzy's Champion, 8-1 Spark Of Madness, 10-1 Mrs Paisley, 14-1 Broadway Joe, 33-1 others.

### 5.38 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m) (9)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | P241- **MINELLADESTINATION** 25 (P,D) D McCain 6-12-1 | P J Kavanagh (5) |
| 2 | 5P2-4 **UP AND OUT** 7 G Elliott (Ire) 5-11-10 | S Bowen |
| 3 | 6U35- **DONSO STAR** 21 R M Smith 5-11-10 | W Shanahan (7) |
| 4 | 5240- **ROSE OF SIENA** 62 (W) N Richards 6-11-9 | S Quinlan |
| 5 | 3043- **BEAUTY TO BEHOLD** 21 (H) P Neville 6-11-6 | A Doyle (5) |
| 6 | 3P06- **BELLA BLUESKY** 31 (T,D) Ewan Whillans 7-11-4 | H Brooke |
| 7 | U554- **JUST DOTTIE** 21 (H) R M Smith 5-11-0 | R Mania |
| 8 | 10UU- **SILVER VISION** F3 (P,D) W Coltherd 4-10-13 | S Coltherd |
| 9 | P3P0- **TANGIERS** 21 (H,T) N Alexander 5-10-2 | B Lynn (3) |

11-4 Minelladestination, 4-1 Beauty To Behold, Up And Out, 5-1 others.

## Salisbury

**Rob Wright**

**1.30** My Genghis
**2.05** Juniper Berries
**2.35** Palmar Bay
**3.10** Many Rivers
**3.45** Golspie
**4.20** Truthful
**4.55** True Legend

**Going:** good to soft, good in places — Racing TV

**Draw:** no advantage

### 1.30 Handicap (£3,926: 6f) (9)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (3) | -1P32 **MY GENGHIS** 10 A Carroll 4-10-0 | Molly Gunn (3) |
| 2 | (5) | -4006 **FIRST COMPANY** 19 M Loughnane 5-9-12 | G Eddery |
| 3 | (9) | 214-4 **REDREDROBIN** 29 M Saunders 6-9-10 | Liam Wright |
| 4 | (6) | 00-23 **FIRENZE ROSA** 17 (D) R Cook & J Bridger 8-9-7 | J Leavy (5) |
| 5 | (4) | 60640 **Q TWENTY BOY** 16 (D) M Usher 8-9-6 | Alice Bond (5) |
| 6 | (2) | 01060 **FOREVER DREAMING** 7 (D) B Millman 4-9-5 | O Searle |
| 7 | (1) | 530-3 **ON EDGE** 24 (P,D) C Mason 5-9-3 | Elle-May Croot |
| 8 | (7) | 00506 **ARLECCHINO'S GIFT** 6 (P,D) M Usher 4-8-12 | Olivia Tubb |
| 9 | (8) | 600-0 **HOLD THE PRESS** 89 (T) J R Jenkins 4-8-11 | Mia Nicholls |

9-4 My Genghis, 4-1 On Edge, 9-2 Firenze Rosa, 6-1 Redredrobin, 7-1 others.

### 2.05 Conditions Stakes — ITV4
(2-Y-O: £9,020: 5f) (6)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (6) | 1 **RELIEF RALLY** 24 (D) W Haggas 9-4 | T Marquand |
| 2 | (4) | 1 **JUNIPER BERRIES** 27 (D) E J-Houghton 9-2 | C Bishop |
| 3 | (1) | 3 **CHINESE KNOT** 14 B Millman 9-0 | L Morris |
| 4 | (2) | 42 **LIV MY LIFE** 14 R Hannon 9-0 | D O'Neill |
| 5 | (3) | **UNBREAK MY HEART** C Cox 8-11 | J Fahy |
| 6 | (5) | **WHOOP WHOOP** R Beckett 8-11 | R Hornby |

6-4 Juniper Berries, 2-1 Relief Rally, 7-1 Unbreak My Heart, 8-1 Whoop Whoop, Liv My Life, 16-1 Chinese Knot.

**Wright choice: Juniper Berries** won easily on her debut at Bath; that form is working out well **Danger:** Relief Rally

### 2.35 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £5,400: 5f) (6)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (1) | **CHRISTIAN DAVID** R Hannon 9-7 | J Crowley |
| 2 | (2) | 0 **EYEROS** 47 J S Moore 9-7 | L Morris |
| 3 | (5) | **JASOUR** C Cox 9-7 | T Marquand |
| 4 | (3) | 6 **MR BALOO** 30 R Hannon 9-7 | D O'Neill |
| 5 | (4) | 4 **NOVATION** 19 G Boughey 9-7 | D McMonagle |
| 6 | (6) | 2 **PALMAR BAY** 10 R Beckett 9-7 | R Hornby |

9-4 Novation, 11-4 Palmar Bay, 4-1 Jasour, 9-2 Christian David, 13-2 others.

### 3.10 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,926: 6f) (11)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (8) | 40-6 **MANY RIVERS** 15 S Kirk 9-11 | D O'Neill |
| 2 | (10) | 31-01 **BEAULD AS BRASS** 15 (D) G Baker 9-10 | T Whelan |
| 3 | (2) | 61-41 **JAX EDGE** 17 (D) C Mason 9-8 | Gina Mangan (3) |
| 4 | (3) | 50312 **PRINCESS NAOMI** 17 (BF,D) B Millman 9-7 | L Morris |
| 5 | (4) | 6620 **MY MATE MIKE** 36 (H) D Ivory 9-6 | C Bennett |
| 6 | (5) | 11130 **TENNESSEE DREAM** 49 (D) C Hills 9-6 | J Crowley |
| 7 | (11) | 0000- **GIDDY AUNT** 226 J Portman 9-5 | R Hornby |
| 8 | (7) | 05535 **VICTORY HOUSE** 10 (P) C Fellowes 9-4 | M Mortensen (7) |
| 9 | (9) | 00-02 **ZOUKSTER** 16 (BF) E Walker 9-1 | T Marquand |
| 10 | (1) | 0-000 **KENTUCKY BOURBON** 78 J S Moore 8-7 | A Keeley (5) |
| 11 | (6) | -0000 **PENNY BE** 17 R Cook & J Bridger 8-6 | S Osborne |

3-1 Zoukster, 4-1 Beauld As Brass, 9-2 Princess Naomi, 5-1 others.

### 3.45 Novice Stakes (£4,590: 1m 2f) (11)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (5) | 2 **FAZAYTE** 19 R Potter 8-10-2 | C Shepherd |
| 2 | (11) | 4- **WHITCOMBE ROCKSTAR** 442 K Burke 4-10-2 | T Greatrex |
| 3 | (2) | 1 **GOLSPIE** 26 E J-Houghton 3-9-9 | C Bishop |
| 4 | (3) | **BREATHLESS BISHOP** H & R Charlton 3-9-2 | Millie Wonnacott (5) |
| 5 | (10) | 5-3 **IBRAHIMOVIC** 28 M Bell 3-9-2 | D McMonagle |
| 6 | (8) | 2 **KINGFISHER KING** 23 W Haggas 3-9-2 | T Marquand |
| 7 | (7) | 5-0 **KING SHARJA** 37 R Hannon 3-9-2 | D O'Neill |
| 8 | (6) | **PALIO** A King 3-9-2 | C Hutchinson (3) |
| 9 | (1) | 0 **SEAHOUSES** 47 R Beckett 3-9-2 | R Hornby |
| 10 | (9) | **SGIAN DUBH** Seamus Mullins 3-9-2 | G Downing |
| 11 | (4) | 0- **WALK THE MOON** 231 E Walker 3-9-2 | S Osborne |

2-1 Golspie, 3-1 Ibrahimovic, 4-1 Kingfisher King, 8-1 King Sharja, 12-1 others.

### 4.20 Novice Stakes (£4,590: 1m 2f) (12)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (5) | **CIENFUEGOS** Sir M Stoute 3-9-2 | C Howarth (5) |
| 2 | (11) | **ELLADONNA** J Fanshawe 3-9-2 | C Shepherd |
| 3 | (8) | **HIGH FASHION** Sir M Stoute 3-9-2 | R Clutterbuck |
| 4 | (9) | 4- **LA ISLA MUJERES** 190 R Beckett 3-9-2 | R Hornby |
| 5 | (4) | **MALKA** K P De Foy 3-9-2 | D O'Neill |
| 6 | (12) | 2- **MANTOOG** 181 Owen Burrows 3-9-2 | J Crowley |
| 7 | (1) | 0 **MRS TWIG** 27 W Muir & C Grassick 3-9-2 | N Currie |
| 8 | (2) | 4-0 **PROSECCO** 19 A Balding 3-9-2 | W Cox |
| 9 | (3) | 5- **SEA OF ELEGANCE** 225 T Ward 3-9-2 | T Whelan |
| 10 | (10) | 4 **SURREY BELLE** 127 H Morrison 3-9-2 | G Rooke |
| 11 | (6) | 3 **TARRAFF** 18 (T) S & E Crisford 3-9-2 | L Morris |
| 12 | (7) | **TRUTHFUL** W Haggas 3-9-2 | T Marquand |

4-1 Mantoog, 9-2 Truthful, 5-1 Tarraff, 11-2 High Fashion, 8-1 others.

### 4.55 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,580: 1m 4f) (11)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (5) | 56-02 **GREASED LIGHTNING** 17 E J-Houghton 9-9 | C Bishop |
| 2 | (9) | 650-1 **TRUE LEGEND** 10 (D) Sir M Prescott 9-9(6ex) | L Morris |
| 3 | (4) | 5401- **FEYHA** 234 (B) M Tregoning 9-8 | D Costello |
| 4 | (2) | 0-530 **COME MUSICA** 19 (B) M Botti 9-8 | Jimmy Quinn |
| 5 | (10) | 00-6 **FAIR DINKUM** 135 H Morrison 9-7 | T Marquand |
| 6 | (7) | 060- **CAMPAIGN TRAIL** 198 R Beckett 9-7 | R Hornby |
| 7 | (6) | 000-3 **GRAHAM** 17 R Hannon 9-6 | D O'Neill |
| 8 | (3) | 06-0 **CARAXES** 136 (B) H & R Charlton 9-5 | T Whelan |
| 9 | (1) | 546-2 **LIONELLA** 22 A King 9-3 | C Hutchinson (3) |
| 10 | (11) | 52440 **THINK CHAMPAGNE** 14 (P) A Carroll 8-9 | J F Egan |
| 11 | (8) | 000 **RHYTHM DANCER** 14 R Cook & J Bridger 8-4 | Mollie Phillips (3) |

13-8 True Legend, 9-2 Feyha, 8-1 Greased Lightning, 10-1 others.

## Soul Sister on Oaks trail

Soul Sister, ridden by Frankie Dettori, was a brilliant four-length winner of the Tattersalls Musidora Stakes at York yesterday. Trained by John and Thady Gosden, she produced a sharp turn of foot to go clear of her rivals and is now 4-1 second favourite for the Betfred Oaks at Epsom on June 2.

# Mike Atherton



Chief Cricket Correspondent

# How many will follow 'outlier' Smeed?

Will Smeed is a cricketer in a hurry. While the ECB was dithering (again) over the future schedule of cricket in this country, Smeed took matters into his own hands last year by signing a white-ball-only contract with Somerset and rejecting first-class cricket without having played a match. For this bright and personable young man, it was a move that made perfect sense.

There are factors particular to Smeed's situation that made his decision a practical one, not least his struggles in second XI red-ball cricket in the past two years, which encouraged him to try to maximise his chances of limited-overs success. Having spent time honing his white-ball skills, while his contemporaries have battled away in the County Championship, Smeed is ready to make his seasonal bow in the T20 Blast for Somerset next week.

His decision to prioritise white-ball cricket was not taken lightly and — as befits an intelligent young man trying to finish an economics and maths degree at the Open University — came after a considerable amount of thought. "It wasn't a snap decision that came after making a pair in a second-team game or something like that; I spoke to a lot of people and it felt like a long time coming and something that just made sense," the 21-year-old tells me. "The most important thing was to find a way of maximising my chances in white-ball cricket. Before, all my training early season was around leaving the ball and defending around off-stump.

"I get the need for good fundamentals and the crossover between red-ball and white-ball cricket but there are better ways to work on that. I felt I wasn't getting enough specific white-ball practice.

"I have been able to really concentrate on working on things I've wanted to add to my white-ball game, like scoops and reverse-sweeps. It wouldn't have been impossible playing red-ball cricket but it would have been much harder. I also felt my red-ball game needed a hell of a lot of work and being away in the winters playing T20, I wasn't getting that opportunity either.

"There's a misconception, though, that my training is just about trying to slog it all the time. As a top-order batter against good bowlers they do get the ball to move, so I think it's pointless batting against old white balls all the time that do nothing, so I've actually been practising with red balls as well.

"I've got a good block now [we spoke two weeks before the start of the Blast] to build into T20 and I've got the opportunity to work exclusively on white-ball stuff, and I find high repetition is very useful."

Smeed's winter involved engagements in the Pakistan Super League, with Quetta Gladiators, in the ILT20 with Mumbai Indians Emirates, and the Abu Dhabi T10 with Deccan Gladiators.




Smeed smashed the Hundred's first century while playing for Birmingham Phoenix last summer

Clearly, he is doing well financially, although he insists that money has not been the driving force behind his decision-making. This winter, he turned down other opportunities, and insists he wants to build relationships with franchises. "It's not about the money; it would be silly to make decisions just based on that," he says. "I'd much rather build relationships with teams rather than hop from franchise to franchise. If that means a bit less money, so be it.

"I've spoken to a lot of people who went to every competition they could and got burned out pretty quickly. So I turned down opportunities this winter because I wanted to create a bit of space in the calendar."

Smeed is a poster boy of the Hundred, having made its first century for Birmingham Phoenix last summer, and saw his profile rocket as a result. Given the uncertainty around how that competition fits with the rest of the English game, how does he view it? "There have been lots of benefits for me," he says. "Firstly, the games are all on TV so the exposure is great. I don't think I would have gone to the PSL otherwise, so it helped kick-start everything for me, I suppose.

"At Birmingham, I was lucky to have Mo [Moeen Ali], Livi [Liam Livingstone] and Kane [Williamson] and it opened my eyes a bit to the difference between a good domestic player and an international player.

"I was in awe watching the international players and I had great coaches to work with and be around. Obviously, it's not the best thing in the world for the counties potentially and it means you don't play 50-over cricket which would be nice."

The lack of batting time is one of the issues I've wondered about with young players who focus on T20. I loved batting and playing, and being limited to a few dozen balls at most would be frustrating. Smeed has only ever played one list A game, and that was for England Lions.

"I love 50-over cricket," he says. "Going from T20 to that, you feel like you have all the time in the world. It would be lovely to play more of it."

Recently, Alec Stewart, Surrey's director of cricket, voiced his concerns around county contracts, and the way the game is developing to the disadvantage of counties. For example, a player might get injured playing franchise cricket, then might expect his county to get him fit, only for that player's next engagement to be another franchise competition. Counties are taking all the risk, in other words, by paying players for 12 months, but receiving little in return.

At the moment, Somerset and Smeed are working things out happily. Smeed has a 12-month deal but only for white-ball cricket, while Somerset provide him with facilities and personnel to help him become the best limited-overs player he can.

He has come through their pathway since a teenager and wanted to keep a year-round base in Taunton, and the county are accommodating to his needs.

Could he envisage a situation in future where counties might refuse to be so generous, thus forcing players to have their own private coaching and conditioning teams, much as golfers do now? "I know Somerset's priority recently has been red-ball cricket and I've made them very aware that I recognise that," Smeed explains. "I've done a bit of work with a private coach, but at the moment it seems to be working out."

The championship has been marginalised to the extremes of the season, with counties having completed almost a third of their fixtures by the end of April. Playing in the freezing cold in front of few spectators is nobody's idea of fun, not least if there are more bountiful opportunities elsewhere. When administrators skew the market, players make their choices accordingly, although for now Smeed does not think that many of his contemporaries are inclined to follow suit and give up on first-class cricket.

"I'm a bit of an outlier," he says. "I was in such a different position to a lot of my contemporaries. I look at my under-19s age-group and they are pretty much all playing first-class cricket and doing well in that. Had I been doing well in the red-ball stuff I probably would have carried on; that I was doing so badly helped me make that decision. So for me it made sense; but I don't see too many others in that situation at this point."

He may be the first, but in all probability he won't be the last.

## Yesterday's racing results

### Bath

**Going:** good

**5.10** (5f 160yd) 1, **Symbol of Hope** (Ray Dawson, 11-2 fav); 2, Fair And Square (7-1); 3, The Daley Express (20-1). 13 ran. 1½l, 1½l. G Harris.

**5.40** (5f 160yd) 1, **Haatem** (P J Dobbs, 4-9 fav); 2, Relentless Warrior (18-1); 3, Shaws Phoenix (20-1). 11 ran. NR: Cat And The Fiddle, Super Schwartz. 6l, 1¼l. R Hannon.

**6.10** (5f 10yd) 1, **Cluedo** (Dane O'Neill, 2-1); 2, Smasher (100-30); 3, Wedgewood (5-4 fav). 4 ran. NR: Pearly Gaits. 5½l, 2½l. H Candy.

**6.40** (1m 3f 137yd) 1, **Galilaeus** (Hector Crouch, 13-8 fav); 2, Damascus Steel (100-30); 3, Atwixaday (25-1). 7 ran. 2l, 17l. R M Beckett.

**7.10** (1m 2f 37yd) 1, **Blue Hero** (Finley Marsh, 8-1); 2, La Forza (16-1); 3, Further Measure (100-30). 11 ran. Nk, ½l. A Wintle.

**7.40** (1m 2f 37yd) 1, **Kraken Filly** (K T O'Neill, 50-1); 2, Lhebayeb (4-1); 3, Waterloo Sunset (14-1). 11 ran. ½l, ¾l. Joe Ponting.

**8.10** (1m 2f 37yd) 1, **Pink Lily** (Alec Voikhansky, 6-1); 2, Greek Giant (5-2 jt-fav); 3, Raincloud (14-1). 14 ran. 1¼l, 1l. R Hannon.

**8.45** (1m) 1, **Obama Army** (George Bass, 3-1); 2, Threebars (8-1); 3, Racing Demon (13-2). 13 ran. NR: Genepi. nk, sh hd. Jack Channon.

**Placepot: £250.00.**

**Quadpot: £56.20.**

### Newton Abbot

**Going:** good to soft (good in places)

**2.05** (2m 2f 110yd hdle) 1, **Inferno Sacree** (Tom Buckley, 7-2); 2, The Plimsoll Line (9-2); 3, Monjules (5-1). 8 ran. NR: Fletch. 3¼l, 10l. N J Hawke.

**2.35** (2m 167yd hdle) 1, **Oakley Dancer** (F Gregory, 13-2); 2, King Of The Lake (Evens fav); 3, Mairis Icon (150-1). 12 ran. 6l, 2l. O Murphy.

**3.10** (3m 1f 170yd ch) 1, **Shortcross Storm** (Bryan Carver, 40-1); 2, Lady Wilberry (11-2); 3, Wind Tor (8-1). 9 ran. NR: Bellamy's Grey. ½l, 26l. Chris Honour.

**3.45** (2m 4f 216yd ch) 1, **Petticoat Lucy** (Lorcan Williams, 6-1); 2, Across The Line (17-2); 3, Begin The Luck (7-2). 7 ran. NR: Our Bill's Aunt. 6½l, 11l. J Scott.

**4.20** (2m 2f 110yd hdle) 1, **Caitlin's Court** (Bryony Frost, 28-1); 2†, Phoenix Risen (9-4 fav); 2†, Robinsville (13-2). 9 ran. NR: Burrows Treat, Danton, Inchagoill Lady. 8l, dht. J D Frost.

**4.55** (3m 1f 170yd ch) 1, **Young Buck** (Miss Olive Nicholls, 5-6 fav); 2, Moratorium (15-2); 3, Bbold (14-1). 8 ran. 9½l, 5l. P F Nicholls.

**5.30** (2m 167yd Flat) 1, **Edmond** (Bryan Carver, 3-1); 2, Manala (4-1); 3, Our Nel (13-8 fav). 9 ran. ½l, 7½l. B R Millman.

**Placepot: £188.00. Quadpot: £102.70.**

### Perth

**Going:** good to soft (good in places)

**6.00** (2m 4f 35yd hdle) 1, **Banjaxed** (K E Buckley, 8-15 fav); 2, Kansas City Star (7-4); 3, Bayonetta (18-1). 5 ran. 4¾l, nk. L Fowler.

**6.30** (2m ch) 1, **Lively Citizen** (T Bellamy, 2-1 fav); 2, Fostered Phil (7-1); 3, Somewhat Cloudy (7-2). 6 ran. ¾l, 8l. D J Jeffreys.

**7.00** (2m 7f 207yd hdle) 1, **Arnica** (Bruce Lynn, 9-2); 2, Lockdown Leader (6-1); 3, Cool Croi (4-1). 6 ran. NR: Ballin Bay, Coniston Clouds. Nk, ½l. N W Alexander.

**7.30** (2m 7f 207yd hdle) 1, **Nowinittowinit** (Mr Stephen Connor, 5-6 fav); 2, Fortified Bay (11-4). 3 ran. NR: Fly By Milan, Jumping Jet, Rae Des Champs, Starlyte. 9l, S R B Crawford.

**8.00** (2m 7f 180yd ch) 1, **Born Famous** (C O'Farrell, 9-4 fav); 2, Sputnik (10-1); 3, Victory Echo (100-30). 8 ran. NR: Any Job Will Do. 2¼l, ns. I Jardine.

**8.30** (2m 7f 180yd ch) 1, **Shanroe Street** (Mr Gregor Walkingshaw, 9-2); 2, So Be It (13-2); 3, Steely Addition (4-5 fav). 4 ran. Sh hd, ½l. G Walkingshaw.

**9.00** (2m 4f 35yd hdle) 1, **Petite Rhapsody** (P W Wadge, 9-2); 2, Sanosuke (Evens fav); 3, Loughermore (9-1). 8 ran. NR: Don Brocco. hd, 15l. Miss Lucinda V Russell.

**Placepot: £470.80. Quadpot: £85.50.**

### Worcester

**Going:** good

**1.40** (2m 4f ch) 1, **Sir Jack West** (Chris Ward, 17-2); 2, Mole Court (9-2); 3, Hermes Le Gris (14-1). 12 ran. 5½l, 10l. Deborah Cole.

**2.15** (2m 7f ch) 1, **Wick Green** (Kielan Woods, 7-1); 2, No No Maestro (8-1); 3, Oneupmanship (9-2). 9 ran. 10l, 9½l. B Pauling.

**2.50** (2m Flat) 1, **Fierce Warrior** (N de Boinville, 5-1); 2, Onewaywest (11-4); 3, Ted's Gift (5-1). 8 ran. NR: Sweet Threat, Tarbuck. 3¼L, 2l. N J Henderson.

**3.25** (2m 7f hdle) 1, **Destroytheevidence** (David Bass, 5-1); 2, Huelgoat (10-11 fav); 3, Almazhar Garde (13-8). 5 ran. 10l, 1½l. K C Bailey.

**4.00** (2m hdle) 1, **Dasher Riley** (H Cobden, 16-1); 2, Trolley Boy (11-10 fav); 3, Bucko's Boy (4-1). 8 ran. NR: Lucky Lover Boy. ½l, 5½l. L Morgan.

**4.35** (2m hdle) 1, **Baikal** (L Edwards, 25-1); 2, Moonshine Spirit (Evens fav); 3, Splashing Wave (9-1). 9 ran. NR: Harthill. 1l, sh hd. A West.

**5.05** (2m hdle) 1, **Hobie** (G Sheehan, 4-1); 2, Elusive Enemy (16-1); 3, Satono Japan (7-4 fav). 9 ran. 1½l, 8l. David Dennis.

**5.35** (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Stripe Of Honour** (Charlie Price, 50-1); 2, Kapitaliste (11-1); 3, Deer Hunter (80-1). 12 ran. 12l, 3l. A Day.

**Placepot: £18.90. Quadpot: £2.80.**

### York

**Going:** good (good to firm in places)

**1.50** (1m 3f 188yd) 1, **Scampi** (Hayley Turner, 16-1); 2, Sam Cooke (20-1); 3, Real Dream (3-1 fav). 15 ran. NR: La Yakel, Selwan. ½l, ½l. A M Balding.

**2.25** (6f) 1, **Bielsa** (Oisin Murphy, 12-1); 2, Lethal Levi (12-1); 3, Magical Spirit (33-1); 4, Spirit Of Light (20-1). 21 ran. NR: Hyperfocus. Nk, 1½l. K A Ryan.

**3.00** (6f) 1, **Azure Blue** (P Mulrennan, 12-1); 2, Highfield Princess (5-1); 3, Commanche Falls (12-1). 10 ran. NR: Khaadem. ½l, 1¼l. M Dods.

**3.35** (1m 2f 56yd) 1, **Soul Sister** (L Dettori, 18-1); 2, Novakai (100-30); 3, Infinite Cosmos (15-8 fav). 8 ran. 4l, ½l. J & T Gosden.

**4.10** (7f) 1, **Dark Thirty** (S M Levey, 10-1); 2, Catch The Paddy (17-2); 3, Ramazan (9-1). 14 ran. Nk, ¾l. R Hannon.

**4.45** (5f) 1, **Mon Na Slieve** (T Eaves, 17-2); 2, Mashadi (5-2); 3, Kylian (11-10 fav). 7 ran. NR: Profiteer. 1¾l, 1½l. K A Ryan.

**5.15** (1m 3f 188yd) 1, **Kihavah** (Tom Marquand, 7-1); 2, Vega Sicilia (9-2 fav); 3, Splendent (12-1). ; 4, Reach (11-1). 18 ran. NR: Captain Kane, True Courage. 1l, hd. A Keatley.

**Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £12,637.14 carried forward to York today.**

**Placepot: £637.60. Quadpot: £58.40.**

# Geoghegan Hart out of Giro after huge crash






Geoghegan Hart, who had been third in the standings, left the 11th stage in an ambulance after being injured

**Tao Geoghegan Hart has abandoned the Giro d'Italia after a big crash from which he was taken away in an ambulance (Elgan Alderman writes).**

**The 28-year-old Briton, who was third in the general classification and only five seconds behind his Ineos Grenadiers team-mate Geraint Thomas, went down as a large group of riders rounded a slippery left-hand corner with about 70km of the 11th stage to go. Also involved were Thomas and Primoz Roglic, first and second in the standings.**

**They were able to return to their bikes but Geoghegan Hart was put into an ambulance on a stretcher with a suspected leg injury.**

**"As usual we were jostling for position, a UAE [Team Emirates] guy crashed next to me," Thomas said. "I don't know who was taken out after me. We were on the same spot. Unfortunately Tao is badly injured. It's obviously a big loss. He was going very well. He was in a really great position and it's very unfortunate to lose him this way."**

**Geoghegan Hart was looking to win the Giro for a second time, three years after his first surprise victory, and had been in excellent form. The 11th stage, the longest of this year's Giro at 219km from Camaiore to Tortona, ended with a sprinters' battle. Pascal Ackermann pipped Jonathan Milan to the line by millimetres, with Mark Cavendish a wheel behind in third. Milan came from nowhere and was the faster man at the finale, with both Ackermann and him celebrating at first. This was the German's first stage win at the Giro since 2019, when two victories helped him into the *Maglia Ciclamino* as champion of the points classification.**

**Thomas retains the *Maglia Rosa* two seconds ahead of Roglic after they were among 123 riders given the same time as Ackermann. He has a strong chance of being in the Pink Jersey, but will have to do so without his team-mates Geoghegan Hart and Filippo Ganna, who tested positive for Covid.**

# Drug ban for Kenyan 10km record-holder

**Athletics**
**Matt Lawton**
Chief Sports Correspondent

The tarnished reputation of Kenyan distance running has taken a further blow after Rhonex Kipruto, the world-record holder for 10km on the road, was suspended for suspected doping.

Since 2017 more than 200 Kenyan athletes have been involved in doping cases and yesterday the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) announced that Kipruto, 23, has been suspended for the alleged "use of a prohibited substance or method" after inconsistencies were found in his athlete biological passport between July 2018 and March 2022.

If found guilty he faces a four-year ban, but for Kenyan athletics it is the association with Brother Colm O'Connell, the legendary Irish coach who guided David Rudisha to an 800m world record at London 2012, that raises the potential damage.

O'Connell said in 2014 that doping in Kenya was confined to less talented athletes trying to match the elite. The quality of those exposed since, not least by the AIU, has disproved that theory.

"Brother Colm has not had a doping case in his nearly 50-year career," a statement issued by Kipruto's agent said. "He is a non-scientific and old-fashioned coach with superb results."

O'Connell said in the statement: "I carefully choose who I work with and to whom I dedicate my energy. I know Rhonex is an honest young man."

Kipruto, who is also the third-fastest in history over the half-marathon distance, added: "I don't cheat or dope! The truth is on my side."

# Bairstow: I'll just crack on with a limp – keeping's like riding a bike

**John Westerby**

The recall for Jonny Bairstow may have been widely expected but that did not diminish the pleasure he felt after an arduous recovery from injury. When Bairstow took a call from Brendon McCullum, the England head coach, confirming his inclusion in the Test squad to face Ireland at Lord's, starting on June 1, he cast his mind back to how far he had come since breaking a leg and dislocating an ankle in a freak accident on a golf course last September.

"There's been some dark times, so to get that call after all the emotions you go through, there's a huge amount of pride," Bairstow, 33, said. "You wonder whether you'll be able to walk again, jog again, run again, play cricket again. Absolutely, those things go through your mind. Until you get back to playing, [it's like] riding your bike if you fall off and have an injury — you think about that the first time you get on it, because you've got bad memories. You wonder, 'Is it going to feel the same?'"

He will not be filling quite the same role this season as the one in which he excelled last summer, batting at No5 and kickstarting England's "Bazball" revolution with four centuries in five innings, as he will replace Ben Foakes as wicketkeeper and No7 against Ireland and, it is expected, in the Ashes series that follows. Nor will he be moving quite the same, the effects of his injury still discernible in a slight limp.

"People have said, 'You're limping,'" he said. "Well, I don't know anyone that's had a major lower-leg injury that walks exactly the same as previously. There are going to be limps, aches and pains when there's trauma, there's going to be an adaptation to the way your body moves. I'm not going to be running exactly the same as last year, but that's OK. Everyone plays with niggles. You grit your teeth, you crack on."

He is preparing to keep wicket regularly in Test cricket for the first time since 2019, but says he felt no adverse reaction from doing so in one second XI game for Yorkshire and two County Championship matches that followed.

Starting at Edgbaston on June 16, the Ashes series comprises five Tests squeezed into seven weeks, but he feels the demands of keeping wicket will place no greater strain on his leg than fielding would.

"I don't think it's different to fielding," he said. "You're squatting at the stumps and moving laterally, but you're not running at 25kph to the boundary. It's a different kind of fitness, the legs and glutes are a bit stiff after that first day, but it's part and parcel of it. In that first second XI game I kept 100 overs, the last two Champo [matches] it's been building nicely and there hasn't been any reaction."

Rob Key, the England managing director of men's cricket, said that the selectors had "agonised" over the decision to drop Foakes, who had done little wrong since McCullum and the captain Ben Stokes revived England's Test fortunes last year.

Having been dropped before himself, Bairstow sympathised with the player whose place he will take. "I've been in that situation so I can feel for him," Bairstow said. "But that's also the nature of sport, it's not me that's made those decisions. He's been a big part of the last 12 months for England and there's no doubt he'll be back."

Bairstow will play for Yorkshire Vikings in their opening T20 Blast game against Birmingham Bears on Saturday. He will then spend a week practising against the red ball in Yorkshire in preparation for the Test against Ireland, with the Ashes looming large afterwards — when we will discover whether England's batsmen can successfully employ their ultra-aggressive approach against Australia's potent pace attack.

"That question was asked when we played India, when the lads went to Pakistan and in New Zealand," Bairstow said. "The Aussies will have looked at the way the lads have been playing and we know they've got some very good bowlers. But there will be a belief that we can."

● *Jonny Bairstow was speaking at a launch announcing Radox as an official partner of England Cricket.*



**Bairstow had some "dark times" after breaking his leg**

## Anderson to miss Irish Test

James Anderson is expected to miss the Test against Ireland at Lord's as a precaution to ensure he is fit for the start of the Ashes.

Anderson, 40, sustained a minor groin strain on the first day of Lancashire's County Championship match against Somerset last week and, although he was included in a 15-man squad to face Ireland in a four-day Test starting on June 1, it is more likely that he will be held back for the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston, which begins on June 16.

England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker said on his *Tailenders* podcast this week that he was "not worried" about the injury, saying he would be fit in "a couple of weeks".

# Qatar keen to host 2025 World Cup

**Rugby league**
**Elgan Alderman**

Qatar has expressed an interest in hosting the 2025 Rugby League World Cup after France withdrew because of financial concerns.

Troy Grant, the chairman of International Rugby League (IRL), said that "all options are on the table", including a one-year delay, a cancellation to leave 2029 as the next edition or a new host being found. The 2025 tournament was set to feature men's, women's, wheelchair and youth competitions, and the IRL must consider whether all four can be held concurrently at short notice.

North America was earmarked for 2025 before France, which is hosting the 2023 Rugby World Cup and 2024 Olympics, came on board last year. But political and economic instability meant that organisers could not give financial guarantees for running the event.

The IRL remains keen to break the cycle of Australia and the UK being hosts and early interest for 2025 has come from New Zealand, Fiji, South Africa and Qatar. "We've done no due diligence to give any of those expressions of interest their due course of credit at this stage," Grant said, adding that there had been "a couple of approaches regarding Qatar".

It would be the latest step in the nation's foray into global events, but in a sport in which they do not feature in the world rankings.

# Koepka driven by Augusta 'choke'

Rick Broadbent
Rochester, New York



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP




Koepka will aim to win his fifth major at this week's US PGA, while Mickelson, inset, is back two years after his famous win



Is this the week when a man with LIV Golf livery gets to win a major? It is a scenario that will have American golf chiefs choking on their lawsuits, but the best of the breakaway believe they can tame the game's twin titans and a "brute of a course" to plant a flag on new ground at Oak Hill.

Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka, Cameron Smith and Phil Mickelson provide an eclectic lead group for the LIV lobby as the US PGA Championship gets under way in Rochester today.

Johnson, 38, won the latest LIV round in Tulsa on Sunday and duly dismissed the idea that a win for the Saudi start-up would provide a sense of validation. "I don't need to keep proving myself," he said. "I already have for many years. Same with all the other [LIV] guys. It's just where we play, it doesn't change the style of golfer we are."

Yet Johnson, a two-times major champion, was speaking after Zach Johnson, the United States Ryder Cup captain, had said that he could not judge whether his namesake was one of America's top 12 players because he did not know the courses on the LIV circuit.

"It's not fair for me to guess his true form or anybody's true form that I can't witness," he said. The use of the word "witness" was odd — assuming he owns a remote control — and shows that an LIV win would still be a landmark moment in a Ryder Cup year.

There is talk of LIV Golf now using Amanda Staveley, the Newcastle United director, to broker peace talks between the circuit and the PGA Tour. You might think Ant and Dec have a better chance of making a play-off here, but for all the background murmurs, Oak Hill will treat them all the same, and inter-tour squabbling will be distilled to a sporting drama. Jon Rahm and Scottie Scheffler, the world No1 and 2, are the clear favourites. They lead the PGA Tour in strokes gained from tee to green and in greens in regulation, and they have the best scoring averages. Rahm, the Masters champion, points out that it is rare for anyone to win two majors in a year, but plans to "keep riding that wave", and it would be a surprise if at least one of the game's leading duo did not feature on Sunday. The trend in recent majors is also for the winner to be in his twenties, and Rahm, 28, and Scheffler, 26, have the requisite talent, temperament and birth certificates.

However, the LIV Golf showing at the Masters, when Koepka and Mickelson shared second place, debunked the notion that the less intense 54-hole format would reduce their players' ability to thrive on the major stage.

In particular, Koepka's return to the spotlight should serve as a warning to all. Nobody in recent history has made major-winning look as easy, with four in two years before injuries shed him of his macho brio. However, as Rahm slipped on his Green Jacket at Augusta, Koepka, 33, had shown he was back.

**Selected tee times**

US unless stated; all times BST; *denotes starting at 10th hole
**1pm*** S Scheffler, B Koepka, G Woodland
**1.11pm*** R McIlroy (N Ire), J Thomas, C Morikawa
**1.22pm*** S Lowry (Ire), J Spieth, V Hovland (Nor)
**1.33pm*** M Fitzpatrick (Eng), C Smith (Aus), J Rahm (Sp)
**2.06pm** J Day (Aus), B DeChambeau, K Bradley
**6.25pm** T Fleetwood (Eng), C Young, H Matsuyama (Japan)
**6.47pm** D Johnson, T Hatton (Eng), X Schauffele
**6.58pm** P Mickelson, R Fowler, P Cantlay
**7.31pm** J Rose (Eng), F Molinari (It), B Horschel

"I expect to be there the other three," he said of his major prospects in the aftermath. Anyone who had watched him on the Netflix documentary, *Full Swing*, would have been amazed by the turnaround. From talking about being almost embarrassed by his golf to his mother urging him to put on his "big boy pants", he was a shell of the player who had reached the top while balancing a chip on each shoulder.

It was clear that the competitive steeliness had solidified here yesterday, as he talked about leading the Masters and losing.

"It is choking, right? If you have a lead overnight and cough it up, that's choking," he said. "I reflected all Sunday night. I didn't sleep. I thought about it for a few days and honed in on what I was doing and what went wrong. From there just never let it happen again. It sucks to finish second. I'm 33 and think your prime in golf is from 30 to 40. I feel 100 per cent."

Like Koepka, Matt Fitzpatrick is up for the grind at what he called "just a brute of a golf course" and likes this stuff. "I hate it when tournaments are 30 under par to win," the world No7 from England said. "I like it when it's hard and you've got to battle."

The US Open champion is one of only six players to have made the cut in the past five majors. Rahm, Patrick Reed and Tyrrell Hatton are also in that select group.

Oak Hill is undoubtedly going to hurt and Paul Casey's withdrawal because of injuries aggravated by new shoes will not be the last example of a player wincing in discomfort this week. With cool temperatures, round-wrecking rough and only two par-fives, the need to find the narrow fairways is clear, but Rahm says the ability to make up and downs will be the key.

So a short-game magician? Lest we forget, it is only two years since Mickelson, then 50, won the US PGA Championship before heading to the wilderness and then the Middle East. He missed his defence last year when, according to antitrust court papers, he had been banned for recruiting players for LIV.

Tales will be spun and the traps have been set on a Donald Ross course which has undergone major surgery since Jason Dufner won the US PGA Championship here in 2013. Dufner always cut a fascinating figure in that he had the energy levels of a long lie-in. Ten years before his triumph, Shaun Micheel came from nowhere to win. About 600 trees have gone since then, which should help the big-hitters, but Bob MacIntyre's assessment was stark.

"It's long, it's tough, but the rough just makes it the hardest golf course I've ever played in my life," he said. "That's what it does – plain and simple. There's going to be a lot of dropped shots."

Who else could emerge from the pack? Patrick Cantlay's time is surely coming, admittedly very slowly given his pace of play, while Jason Day was back with a win last weekend but said he was tired and drained and did not want to deplete his resources by practicing.

And then there is Rory McIlroy. Having downplayed expectations with a glum media conference, it would be typical of the great enigma to follow that with a mesmerising run. If so, the message from Tiger Woods to correct his two-way miss would prove one of golf's great texts. Having got the emojis, he just needs to get his mojo back.

**FOR ONLINE SUBSCRIBERS**
**Meet Adrian Meronk, the 6ft 6in Pole looking to enhance his Ryder Cup claims**
**thetimes.co.uk/#section-sport**

# Imola race called off due to floods – and unlikely to be rearranged

**Formula One**

**Tom Kershaw, Tom Kington** Rome

This weekend's Emilia Romagna Grand Prix at Imola has been called off due to extreme weather conditions in the region, with officials unable to safely access the track because of the severe flooding that has caused chaos in northern Italy. Italian authorities have evacuated 13,000 people on the northeast coast after torrential rain caused 14 rivers to burst their banks, flooding towns and claiming at least six lives.

The sixth race of the Formula One season, scheduled for Sunday near Bologna, was placed under threat on Tuesday after Formula One staff, who were in the process of assembling the garages, motorhomes and hospitality areas, were told to leave the paddock as a precautionary measure due to warnings of flooding and landslides. Staff were forbidden from returning to the track yesterday, while members of the Alpine F1 team evacuated their hotel, with a further 100-150mm of torrential rain forecast and fears the river adjacent to the track could burst its banks.

After a meeting between Formula One officials and local authorities, the FIA confirmed the race would be cancelled because of safety concerns and the need to prioritise relief efforts. Army helicopters rescued people from rooftops and emergency workers in dinghies patrolled submerged streets in the region yesterday as up to 500mm of rain fell in some areas in 36 hours, half the annual average.

Matteo Salvini, Italy's deputy prime minister, had called for the race to be postponed amid concerns the influx of 120,000 fans would overload routes where several access roads and bridges are already closed and put an unnecessary burden on emergency services and local community. "It is imperative to concentrate all efforts on coping with the emergency," he said. "Let's dedicate ourselves to relief efforts."

Stefano Domenicali, the Formula One chief executive, said: "It is such a tragedy to see what has happened in the town and region that I grew up in and my thoughts and prayers are with the victims of the flooding and the families and communities affected.

"The decision that has been taken is the right one for everyone in the local communities and the F1 family as we need to ensure safety and not create an extra burden for the authorities while they deal with this awful situation."



The Emilia Romagna Grand Prix was called off yesterday due to the flood waters

The region was first hit by extreme weather a fortnight ago, with the National Crisis Unit in Italy urging people this week to remain in their homes because of the severe risk posed.

Some 23 towns were flooded including Cesena, where mayor Enzo Lattuca warned residents to stay on upper floors of homes and where locals swam down a street to save a child being held above the water level by their mother.

A 60-year-old woman who ventured outside her home in nearby Ronta di Cesana on Tuesday to check on the flooding was swept away by rising water. Her body was found yesterday, on a beach ten miles away. When Lake Andreuccio near the resort town of Rimini burst its banks, local roads were filled with fish, while beaches at Riccione were devoured by two-metre waves.

"We are seeing the kind of floods we would once have expected every 100 or 150 years," Marco Casini, who runs the state authority managing water in Italy's central Apennine region, said. "This follows two years of drought and 2022 was the driest on record in 500 years."

Formula One officials are assessing whether to reschedule the race for later this year, but that is considered highly unlikely because of an already congested calendar — there are a record 24 races this season — leaving few viable alternative weekends. The teams will instead return in Monaco next week when Red Bull will seek to continue a dominant start to the season, with Max Verstappen leading team-mate Sergio Pérez by 14 points in the championship.

# Robins gets a shot to end wait of 22 years

| | |
|---|---|
| **Middlesbrough** | **0** |
| **Coventry City**<br>*Hamer 57* | **1** |

*Coventry win 1-0 on aggregate*

**Martin Hardy**

Mark Robins was last, with his hands tucked into his tracksuit pockets, as he made his way towards the blue flares and bedlam in a corner of the Riverside Stadium.

It was his party, his inspiration that has taken a team which started the season unable to play at home because the pitch was not ready to within 90 minutes of the richest league in the world. He was just last to arrive, low key, letting his players enjoy a potentially remarkable chapter in the history of Coventry City.

It is 22 years since they have played in the Premier League. Theirs has been a troubled story since. None of that mattered last night, not when Gustavo Hamer struck a brilliant, winning goal in the second half.

The walls of the visiting dressing room reverberated to the sound of Neil Diamond's *Sweet Caroline* and there was wild delight for the supporters.

They now face Luton Town at Wembley a week on Saturday for a place in the Premier League.

"Our supporters were phenomenal," Robins, who has brought the club up from League Two, said. "They deserve that; from the start of the season to now has been incredible. It is a special club.

"We were talking about where we were when we played Middlesbrough on October 1 [bottom of the table]. It was a therapy session! It will sink in on the way back. We will definitely have a drink. We were playing against a top team. It was the longest game in my career and it never went to extra time.

"When it fell to Gustavo, we breathed out. He does it every day. To see it hit the back of the net was special."

It needed a moment of real quality to decide the tie. Just before the hour mark Hamer took control of the ball, and this Championship play-off semi-final that had been goalless after the first leg, then struck a beautiful shot into the top corner of Zack Steffen's goal. There was an explosion of blue in the corner of the stadium. Robins briefly raised his arms to the sky in celebration. It would be enough.

Hamer would strike the crossbar with a superb free kick, Cameron Archer would shoot over from close range. Middlesbrough and their revival under Michael Carrick would not be able to find a lifeline.

"We are bitterly disappointed," Carrick said. "I am hugely proud of the players and the staff and the effort, for how far we have come. It is a tough one to take. Hopefully the players will be better for it. We just came up short and you have to take it on the chin."

**Luton Town v Coventry City**
**Sky Bet Championship play-off final**
**Saturday, May 27**
**Wembley**

OWEN HUMPHREYS/PA



**Hamer enjoys his second-half strike that booked a trip to Wembley for Coventry**

**Middlesbrough** (4-2-3-1): Z Steffen 7 — T Smith 6 (A Dijksteel 67min, 5), P McNair 6, D Lenihan 7, R Giles 6 — A Mowatt 7 (D Barlaser 67, 5), H Hackney 6— M Forss 6 (I Jones 67, 4), C Akpom 5, R McGree 6 — C Archer 5. **Booked** Smith, McNair, Lenihan.
**Coventry** (5-2-2-1): B Wilson 6 — B Norton-Cuffy 7 (F Dabo 79), L McNally 7, K McFadzean 7 (J Panzo 85), C Doyle 7, J Bidwell 6 — L Kelly 7, B Sheaf 7 (J Eccles 70, 5) — G Hamer 8, J Allen 7 (M Godden 80) — V Gyokeres 8. **Booked** Doyle, Hamer, McFadzean.
**Referee** D Coote. **Attendance** 32,154.

# Goalkeeper refused to go on bench

**Nick Szczepanik, Martin Hardy**

Robert Sánchez is expected to miss another Brighton & Hove Albion match after his head coach revealed that the Spain goalkeeper refused to warm the bench against Arsenal on Sunday.

Sánchez, 25, was replaced by Jason Steele in Roberto De Zerbi's Premier League starting line-up in February but returned for the 2-1 victory over Chelsea last month. De Zerbi has since turned back to Steele and the Italian said yesterday that it was Sánchez's decision to be left out of the matchday squad altogether for last weekend's 3-0 victory.

"Robert decides at the moment it's like this, because he wants it that way — not me, not the club," De Zerbi said. "I try to have a good relationship with everybody, with every player but if it's not possible, they have to accept [it]."

Brighton travel to St James' Park tonight to face Newcastle United, who are feeling the pressure from Manchester United and Liverpool in the race for Champions League places after failing to win their past two games.

"Whenever you want something really badly, which I'm sure everyone connected with the club does, the hardest bit is to actually get there," Eddie Howe, the Newcastle head coach, said.

● **TV:** Sky Sports Main Event.
**Radio:** talkSPORT. Kick-off 7.30pm.



# Human flaw derails Brentford model

**Martin Samuel**
**Comment**

That slapping noise you may have heard this afternoon? Quite possibly the collective sound of every Brentford executive, each one of the club's A-grade analysts, all of their metric masters, striking their foreheads in unison at news of Ivan Toney's suspension from football.

They did everything right, Brentford. They identified a player, three summers ago, who it was thought could propel them from the Sky Bet Championship into the Premier League. Toney was in League One, with Peterborough United, at the time. It was his eighth club, including loans, and he had never scored a goal outside the bottom two tiers. Yet Brentford saw something: a player with transformative potential.

And they were right. Brentford paid Peterborough United £6 million plus add-ons, including £1 million if he ever played for England. That clause may have seemed far-fetched at the time. On March 26 this year the clause was activated, by which time Brentford, and Toney, were established in the Premier League. So Brentford were smart. They ran the numbers as they always do and unearthed a player whose prolific scoring feats in League One could be converted to the Championship, and then onwards. It remains one of the shrewdest pieces of business in the past decade, from a club that specialises in them.




More than any individual, Toney got Brentford up and kept them there. But then the FA, having studied an aspect of the player's character that had previously remained hidden, announced an eight-month ban from football, as a result of 232 gambling rule breaches.

Toney, to quote Eddie Cochran, had something that can't be found in books. A persistent fancy for a wager and a rather ruinous disregard for the rules. Not ruinous for him, necessarily, because he will still only be 27 when he is free to play again, and Kieran Trippier has already proved that a gambling suspension — although his was ten weeks — is no obstacle to future success with club or country. But it is ruinous for his club, in the short-term at least. If this was to be the summer of the big cash-in, Brentford are in possession of damaged stock.

The sheer number of bets seems a lot, but it isn't really. Even a fun gambler might have five or six running each weekend and Toney's offences were spread over four years, too. He doesn't sound like an addict but, given where this has ended up, his hobby is certainly a liability.

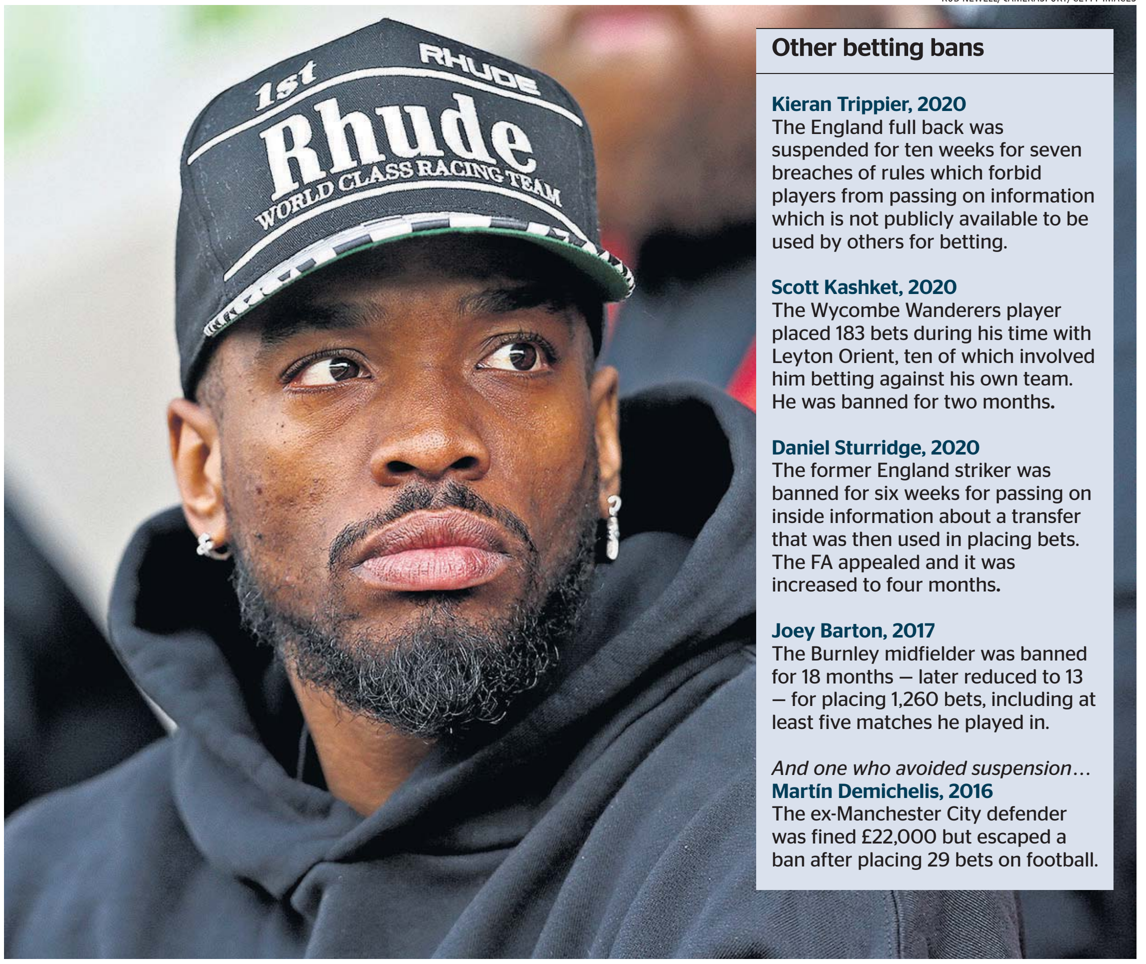
Brentford have got the worst of all worlds, until next year at least. It will be hard to sell Toney for anything like the money they would have hoped for because suitors will use this to try to drive the price down — and they will be denied his services until January. It is incredibly frustrating, not least because this is the year of the striker.

The top five Premier League goalscorers this season are Erling Haaland, Harry Kane, Toney, Mohamed Salah and Callum Wilson: four out of five leading the line. Last year it was Salah, Son Heung-min, Cristiano Ronaldo, Kane and Sadio Mané. A lot of hybrid forwards. What Toney does has never been more fashionable or sought-after — and Brentford are stymied.

The FA were unable to clarify whether Toney would be available for sale even if Brentford could find a buyer. Is a transfer part of the football-related activity from which Toney is now banned? As it stands he can't even train with his team until September and he's not allowed inside a football stadium. What a strange world this is.

Matthew Benham, the owner of Brentford, made part of his fortune through gambling, via his company Smartodds, and the club undoubtedly benefits from its analytics arm. The same is true of the owner of the year, Tony Bloom at Brighton & Hove Albion, and his company Starlizard. Turn on the television and viewers are deluged with encouragements to make each match more interesting with risky financial investment. Yet Toney did and we'll see him next in January. Analyse that.

ROB NEWELL/CAMERASPORT/GETTY IMAGES




### Other betting bans

**Kieran Trippier, 2020**
The England full back was suspended for ten weeks for seven breaches of rules which forbid players from passing on information which is not publicly available to be used by others for betting.

**Scott Kashket, 2020**
The Wycombe Wanderers player placed 183 bets during his time with Leyton Orient, ten of which involved him betting against his own team. He was banned for two months.

**Daniel Sturridge, 2020**
The former England striker was banned for six weeks for passing on inside information about a transfer that was then used in placing bets. The FA appealed and it was increased to four months.

**Joey Barton, 2017**
The Burnley midfielder was banned for 18 months — later reduced to 13 — for placing 1,260 bets, including at least five matches he played in.

*And one who avoided suspension…*
**Martín Demichelis, 2016**
The ex-Manchester City defender was fined £22,000 but escaped a ban after placing 29 bets on football.

**Toney, sidelined with a hamstring injury, watched from the stands as Brentford beat West Ham United at home on Sunday**

## Toney cannot train until September

CONTINUED FROM BACK

Manchester City — as Thomas Frank's side aim to secure a place in Europe. They are four points adrift of Aston Villa in seventh, a position which would secure Europa Conference League football next season.

The breaches began in February 2017 when Toney was at Scunthorpe United and included his stays at Wigan Athletic, Peterborough United and Brentford, ending in January 2021.

Toney will be allowed to return to training with his club for the final four months of the ban, starting on September 17. However, it all but rules out a move away from Brentford this summer for the much coveted striker, who has scored 20 Premier League goals this season. "I am naturally disappointed that I will be unable to play for the next eight months," Toney said.

"The written reasons for the commission's decision have not yet been published, so I make no further comment at this point other than to thank my family and friends, Brentford FC and our fans for their continued support, through what has been a very difficult time. I now focus on returning to play the game I love next season."

The FA said the commission's written reasons for its sanctions would be published "in due course".

Brentford had been preparing for the lengthy ban with the January signing, Kevin Schade, considered a possible alternative up front, but Toney's suspension is likely to impact his involvement with England. Gareth Southgate handed Toney his first cap in March when he came off the bench against Ukraine at Wembley. The England manager had said that the absence of a "judgment" in the case meant he could not see a reason why he would not pick Toney. Southgate will name his squad on Wednesday for England's Euro 2024 qualifiers against Malta and North Macedonia next month, with Aston Villa's Ollie Watkins expected to be given the opportunity to establish his position as Harry Kane's understudy.

England play Ukraine and Scotland in September, Australia and Italy in October, and Malta and North Macedonia in November. Toney will be banned for those games but back in time for next summer's Euros in Germany.

# Moyes ready to tackle unbeatable Alkmaar again

**Europa Conference League**
**Gregor Robertson**

What do Barcelona, Inter Milan and Rangers have in common? Villareal, Sporting, Real Betis and Sevilla? The Ipswich Town and Liverpool teams who conquered Europe in the Eighties? None left AZ Alkmaar with the taste of victory during the Dutch club's remarkable unbeaten 32-game run in European competition, from 1977 to 2007.

And the man whose team inflicted AZ's first European defeat on home soil? David Moyes, whose Everton side knocked Alkmaar out of the 2007-08 Uefa Cup. Talk of that night, when a 79th-minute James Vaughan strike was the difference in a narrow 3-2 win, drew a knowing smile from the 60-year-old West Ham United manager.

"It took me a wee while [to recognise the stadium] when I came here; it was a long time ago now," Moyes said. "But the moment I came through the door it all came back. It was my dad who reminded me. I have to try to do that [win] again tomorrow night. That's the job."

"Louis van Gaal was the manager, and I was a young manager at the time, just starting my journey, or at least feeling like a young coach. It's an incredible record in Europe they have here. We've only started our European campaign really in the past couple of years. But Alkmaar have got a super record, no doubt about that."

**Alkmaar (1) v West Ham (2)**
**Europa Conference, semi-final second leg**
**TV: BT Sport 1**
**Radio: talkSPORT2**

This is not, however, merely a trip down memory lane. Pascal Jansen's youthful side are in the thick of their own record: a 25-game unbeaten run at home in Europe, stretching back to a Europa League defeat to Lyon in 2016-17, which includes wins against Lazio and Anderlecht in the previous two rounds of this year's Europa Conference League. Moyes is under no illusion as to the size of the task.

A draw would be enough for West Ham, who hold a 2-1 lead from the first leg at London Stadium, to book their place in a first major European final in 47 years. Moyes's Everton side, though, are still the only English club to win at the AFAS stadium, which has hosted draws against Arsenal and Manchester United, the latter of which was as recently as 2019-20.

In the quarter-final, Anderlecht held a two-goal lead ahead of the return leg in Alkmaar, yet were knocked out on penalty kicks following a rousing display by AZ. "There is very little in it," Moyes said. "If we were a goal down, we would be saying we still have to go for it and that we have a great chance. I don't see it being a big advantage.

"They're doing remarkably well in the Dutch league and have done for a number of years," Moyes said. "I think it'll be a pretty open game. They've shown when they've been behind before what they're capable of. We've got an unbeaten record in Europe away from home. So all those things added together, for me, makes it look like an interesting game."

Alkmaar's only previous European final was against Ipswich Town in the two-legged 1981 Uefa Cup final, which ended in a 5-4 aggregate defeat. For West Ham, victory would mean a third European final appearance.

Moyes said: "We are up against a difficult opponent who has knocked some very good teams out the tournament. There is no guarantee. You have to earn it and we will need to earn it tomorrow."

## Milner and Firmino lead Liverpool summer exits

Liverpool have confirmed that James Milner and Roberto Firmino, the two players with the most appearances under Jürgen Klopp, will leave at the end of the season. Both are set to receive an emotional Anfield send-off against Aston Villa on Saturday.

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Naby Keïta will also depart when their contracts expire this summer.

## Spurs hold further Luis Enrique and Slot talks

Tottenham Hotspur are closer to appointing a head coach after further talks were held with representatives of Luis Enrique and Arne Slot.

After the club ruled out Julian Nagelsmann last week, Luis Enrique, the former Spain head coach, is believed to be the frontrunner.

Slot, the Feyenoord manager, won the Eredivisie title in the Netherlands on Sunday.

# Guardiola has built an audacious team – arguably the greatest we've ever seen



Martin Samuel

Well, that was special. A privilege to be here, a privilege to see this team, to share this night. We don't make enough fuss about them, really. And we should. We certainly used to, with Barcelona. Probably because they were remote. There was something wonderful about jumping on a plane, going to that stadium, that city, seeing those players at first-hand, those names: Lionel Messi, Andrés Iniesta, Xavi.

This is Manchester. So it's familiar, like the players are familiar. Pep Guardiola's Barcelona seemed so much more exotic than his Manchester City. Yet they're one and the same. He needs to finish the job in Istanbul, of course, but he's got City where he wants them. He's got them at that Barcelona level. He's got them where the most truthful reaction is to gasp, to shake one's head in disbelief at the sheer audacity of it all. This is, arguably, the greatest English football team there has been. They just need to go out one more time and prove it.

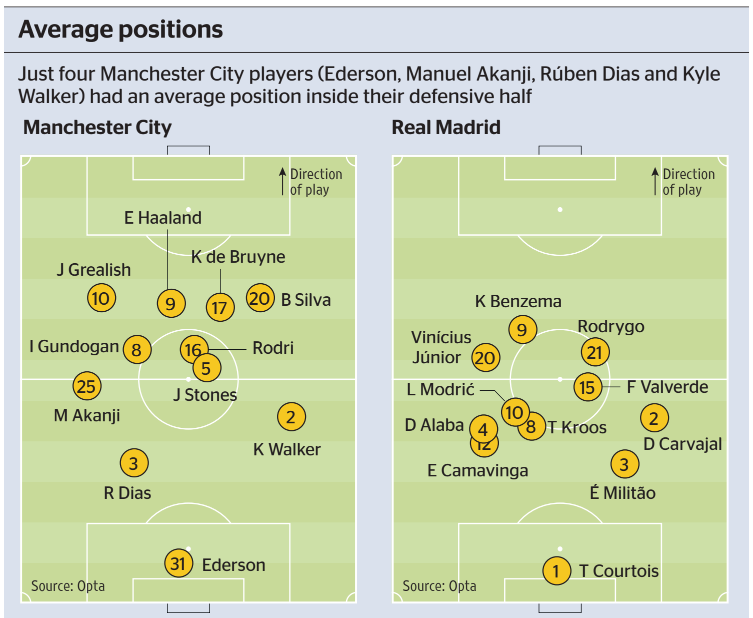
And if we can see that, surely he can, too. On the touchline, even Guardiola appeared to sense this was a unique performance. As the third went in, and Real Madrid were vanquished, he turned to the crowd and stood ramrod straight, both arms aloft, fists clenched. It isn't just any City side he will take to Turkey next month. It is his best City.

The dismantling of Real was quite unlike anything we had seen. This isn't just about one super striker, as so many have claimed this season. Erling Haaland didn't even get on the scoresheet across the two matches. The star here is the team, the team Guardiola has built, the delightful football it plays and the way it has inspired its fans to fall in love with a competition they once eschewed.

City followers, we are so often informed, still do not care for the Champions League. They bear grudges from previous feuds with the governing body, they don't care about past failures in Europe because they'd rather win the domestic league. It's all nonsense. City fans love City, so they love City playing beautifully and they love City winning. And now they love the Champions League, too. For what better place is there to win than the Champions League?




The City players celebrate in the dressing room after they produced a brilliant performance to dismiss Real Madrid and reach next month's Champions League final




So they still boo? So what? Can't claim the place lacks atmosphere and then when there is atmosphere lecture the loyalists that it's the wrong kind. And if it's possible to "Love United and Hate the Glazers", it's possible to love City in the Champions League while hating Uefa, the organisers. And of course, City will embrace this next stage of their journey. It would be a sporting tragedy if a team as great as this did not win European football's greatest prize. The arguments will rage about Treble winners and back-to-back European champions but, after this, most observers were willing to agree that Guardiola has built the best English football team they have seen.

Certainly, no one could remember one that could have taken this Real side apart as spectacularly as City did over the initial 45 minutes. A few numbers? In the first 15 minutes, Real made only 13 successful passes. After 30 minutes that was up to 45. In the same period, City's pass completion total was 237 and they led Real on attacking plays 29-0.

There have been some great performances by English clubs in Europe. The greatest, arguably, was quite recent: Liverpool 4 Barcelona 0. Yet putting that night in context, Liverpool kicked off trailing 3-0. Naturally, they were hyped up, high energy, borderline frantic in their intensity. Their challenge was to pull off a result that was close to unimaginable. And they did.

Yet this was superior in some ways because City did not have to go all out like this. The game was poised at 1-1. City could have been measured, controlled, they could have dictated the tempo, yet kept it steady. And they did. They demonstrated all of those qualities while also being hyped up. They were the best of all possible worlds, the supreme strategists. If there is such a thing as perfection on the field of play, Guardiola will never acknowledge it. So let's just guess that in his dreams this is how his team plays. They school Real. Luka Modric gets taken off after an hour because the game is passing him by; Vinícius Júnior ends up in a tense conversation with Carlo Ancelotti because he can't get a kick. And then, when he finally does, Kyle Walker keeps pace with him and takes the ball like a dad teasing his son in the back garden, just to show the old man's still got it.

Perhaps it was for the best, too, that in the second half the real Real turned up at last. Stung by Bernardo Silva's two goals, they finally posed a threat. That was for the best. Had they dominated throughout it might have been claimed that Real merely suffered an off night. By showing the resilience we know only too well, Real elevated City's brilliance. That City absorbed their pressure and then doubled their lead is the greatest compliment of all. Madrid weren't just beaten by the better side on the night; City are truly the better side, the best side, maybe the best we have seen. They have proved it in the Premier League, hunting down Arsenal, and now here, four goals up on mighty Madrid. And no one can claim that Real are callow, and lack experience, or have been weakened by injuries. These are Europe's specialist cup winners and they were destroyed by the performance of the season. Certainly this season and maybe any.

## Results

### Football

**Champions League**
**Semi-final, second leg**

**Man City** (2) **4** **Real Madrid** (1) **0**
Silva 23, 37 52,313
Militão 76 (og)
Álvarez 90+1
(Manchester City win 5-1 on agg)

**Sky Bet Championship play-offs**
**Semi-final, second leg**

**Middlesbro** (0) **0** **Coventry** (0) **1**
32,154 Hamer 57
(Coventry City win 1-0 on agg)

**Women's Super League** Everton 1 Arsenal 4; West Ham United 0 Chelsea 4.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Chelsea** | 20 | 17 | 1 | 2 | 61 | 15 | 46 | **52** |
| **Man Utd** | 20 | 16 | 2 | 2 | 53 | 11 | 42 | **50** |
| **Arsenal** | 20 | 15 | 2 | 3 | 49 | 12 | 37 | **47** |
| **Man City** | 20 | 14 | 2 | 4 | 46 | 21 | 25 | **44** |
| **Aston Villa** | 20 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 42 | 34 | 8 | **33** |
| **Everton** | 20 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 25 | 32 | -7 | **27** |
| **Liverpool** | 20 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 21 | 35 | -14 | **22** |
| **West Ham** | 20 | 5 | 2 | 13 | 19 | 41 | -22 | **17** |
| **Brighton** | 20 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 25 | 60 | -35 | **16** |
| **Tottenham** | 20 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 25 | 44 | -19 | **14** |
| **Leicester** | 20 | 4 | 1 | 15 | 13 | 46 | -33 | **13** |
| **Reading** | 20 | 3 | 2 | 15 | 22 | 50 | -28 | **11** |

**Cinch Championship play-offs**
**Final, first leg**

**Airdrieonians** (0) **1** **Hamilton** (0) **0**
Smith 56
Sent off: C Watson (Airdrieonians) 90+2

### Cricket

**Indian Premier League**

**Dharamsala** Delhi Capitals 213-2 (20 overs: R R Rossouw 82 not out, P P Shaw 54); Punjab Kings 198-8 (20 overs: L S Livingstone 94, A Taide 55). ***Capitals (2pts) won by 15 runs***.

### Cycling

**Giro d'Italia**

**Leading positions: 11th stage** (Camaiore to Tortona, 219km): 1, P Ackermann (GER, UAE Team Emirates) 5hr 9mi 2sec; 2, J Milan (It, Bahrain Victorious); 3, M Cavendish (GB, Astana-Qazaqstan); 4, M Pedersen (DEN, Trek-Segafredo); 5, S Oldani (It, Alpecin-Deceuninck); 6, V Albanese (It, EOLO-Kometa); 7, M Mayrhofer (Ger, DSM); 8, D Ballerini (It, Soudal-Quick-Step); 9, S Consonni (It, Cofidis); 10, A Marit (Bel, Intermarch-Circus-Wanty) all same time. **Overall** 1, G Thomas (GB, INEOS Grenadiers) 44:35:35; 2, P Roglic (Slove, Jumbo-Visma) at 2sec behind; 3, J Almeida (Por, UAE Team Emirates) 22; 4, A Leknessund (Nor, DSM) 35; 5, D Caruso (It Bahrain Victorious) 1min 28sec; 6, L Kämna (Ger, BORA-hansgrohe) 1:52; 7, E Dunbar (Ire, Jayco-AlUla) 2:32; 8, T Arensman (Neth, INEOS Grenadiers); 9, L De Plus (Bel, INEOS Grenadiers) 2:36; 10, A Paret-Peintre (Fr, AG2R-Citroën) 2:48; 12, H Carthy (GB, EF Education-EasyPost) 3:22.

### Tennis

**Internazionali BNL d'Italia**

**Rome: Quarter-finals: Men** H Rune (Den) bt N Djokovic (Ser) 6-2, 4-6, 6-2; C Ruud (Nor) bt F Cerundolo (Arg) 7-6 (7-5), 6-4. **Women** J Ostapenko (Lat) bt P Badosa (Sp) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

## Fixtures

### Football

Kick-off 8.0 unless stated

**Europa League: Semi-finals, second leg** Bayer Leverkusen (0) v Roma (1); Sevilla (1) v Juventus (1).

**Europa Conference League: Semi-finals, second leg** AZ Alkmaar (1) v West Ham United (2); Basel (2) v Fiorentina (1).

**Premier League** Newcastle United v Brighton (7.30).

**Sky Bet League One play-offs: Semi-final, second leg** Sheffield Wednesday (0) v Peterborough (4).

### Cricket

**LV= County Championship: First day of four** (11.0; 96 overs minimum): **Division One: Ageas Bowl** Hampshire v Northamptonshire. **Lord's** Middlesex v Somerset. **Trent Bridge** Nottinghamshire v Essex. **Kia Oval** Surrey v Kent. **Division Two: Bristol** Gloucestershire v Durham. **Hove** Sussex v Glamorgan. **Worcester** Worcestershire v Leicestershire.

# Martin in Southampton frame

**Tom Roddy**

Russell Martin is in the frame to become Southampton's new manager as the club look to follow Burnley's template in making an immediate return to the Premier League.

The 37-year-old Swansea City head coach is among the candidates Southampton have identified to lead them in the Sky Bet Championship next season after their 11-year stay in the top flight ended when their relegation was confirmed at the weekend.

Rubén Sellés has been in charge as the interim manager since February. The 39-year-old Spaniard succeeded Nathan Jones, who was sacked only 95 days after replacing Ralph Hasenhüttl in a chaotic campaign at the club.

Southampton have been interviewing other candidates but admire Martin's work at Swansea, where he has deployed an attractive possession-based style and is about to enter the final 12 months of his contract. Swansea finished tenth in the Championship, three points off the play-offs, despite having failed to make any signings in the January transfer window.

Southampton have looked at Burnley's success in bouncing back to the Premier League at the first opportunity by transforming their style of play to a possession-heavy, attacking approach under Vincent Kompany.

The south coast club have already appointed Jason Wilcox, the former Manchester City academy director, as their new director of football.

# Demolition of Real shifts

**Henry Winter**
Chief Football Writer



**Manchester City** 4
*Silva 23, 37, Akanji 76, Álvarez 90+1*

**Real Madrid** 0

*Man City win 5-1 on aggregate*

Where to start? Jack Grealish tormenting Dani Carvajal? Kyle Walker outsprinting Vinícius, the senior too fast for Júnior? Rodri and John Stones running midfield? Bernardo Silva twice emphatically beating the best goalkeeper in the world, Thibaut Courtois? Real's defence so shredded that Éder Militão conceded an own goal? City's strength in depth so impressive that one substitute, Phil Foden, set up the fourth for another, Julián Álvarez? Rúben Dias hunting down and subduing the most recent recipient of the Ballon d'Or, Karim Benzema?

City posed all the questions last night and Real could find none of the answers and were, frankly, fortunate to escape a more humiliating scoreline. This utter annihilation of Real felt like the moment when City more than avenged last year's semi-final loss. This was the moment when they truly looked the real deal, when they looked ready finally to become champions of Europe.

City are feared now. Such is the respect that opponents now have for Pep Guardiola's side that Courtois went over to congratulate the outstanding Grealish at the final whistle. It was the only time Real laid a glove on City.

Grealish and company head to Istanbul on June 10 to face Inter Milan in the Champions League final full of respect for the likes of Edin Dzeko, their former striker, Lautaro Martínez and Nicolò Barella, but they will not travel with any fear.

City will be favourites, deservedly so, such is their form, class and hunger. City's season will have lasted 315 days, starting with defeat against Liverpool in the Community Shield at the King Power on July 30 (after which some even questioned Erling Haaland's suitability for City) and climaxing by the Bosphorus, bordering another continent, having played football from another planet. It is a memorable marathon and the only wall City have encountered is prefixed by wonder.

The final certainly will be weighed down heavily with intrigue, depending what happens in the June 3 FA Cup final against Manchester United, and it could be down to three former United players, Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Matteo Darmian and Romelu Lukaku, to stop City doing the Treble in Turkey.

They are getting closer and closer, and look unstoppable in this sort of mood. So many snapshots depicted their dominance. Rodri almost casually, almost cruelly, sliding the ball past a bemused Benzema. Stones striding 50 yards through midfield.

Silva pressing the ball, and almost the life, out of David Alaba. Silva twisting Eduardo Camavinga into submission. Ederson, finally called into action after half-time, tipping over Alaba's free kick and repelling shots from Dani Ceballos and Benzema. Otherwise, Ederson could have brought a book to occupy himself.

Or binoculars. Most of the action was way down the other end. City went for Real's jugular from the opening whistle and didn't let up. The tone was set by their manager. Guardiola sets the highest of standards and, even with City in total control, cruising to Istanbul, he was yelling at his players, collapsing to his knees in frustration at rare misplaced passes. It is this pursuit of perfection that defines Guardiola and shapes his City side. His players are driven and so it proved, with Silva glittering.

Silva was a firefly breathing fire again last night. It is a testament to the spirit within Guardiola's squad, and the type of good character he employs, that Silva was briefly linked with an exit last summer but stayed, proving the ultimate professional and also Guardiola's go-to right-sided man ahead of Riyad Mahrez in the more challenging games. Not that Silva needed to do much tracking back as City mainly had the ball.

At times in that astonishing first period, as City camped in Real's half with 83 per cent of possession, it felt that the pitch might tip up such was the weight of numbers down one end. It felt a mismatch, a change in dynasties. Real were pinned so deep, they were almost in with their fans. They were comprehensively schooled.

City were that good in the first half. All of the strengths of Guardiola's fine side were on show, the team-work and individual technique, the relentlessness, sheer positivity and belief. Grealish dribbled in, drove in, darting away from Carvajal. Haaland prowled and threatened. Kevin De Bruyne passed with precision and menace. Rodri anchored and attacked. Stones stepped into midfield and then stepped into the final third. Everyone stepped up. Manuel Akanji even arrived from left back and had a shot blocked by Alaba.

Courtois twice made athletic saves to deny Haaland headers, Rodri dragged a shot wide and then the dam broke after 23 minutes. City progressed the ball deep into Real's left back territory where Camavinga, a talent, was already struggling. City quickened the move, Silva to Stones to Walker to De Bruyne, and down the inside-right channel to Silva. City created the opening so sweetly and Silva deceived Courtois so neatly by giving him the eyes. The Belgian shifted his balance to his right, expecting the shot to arrive on that side, so Silva simply whipped the ball in at the near post.

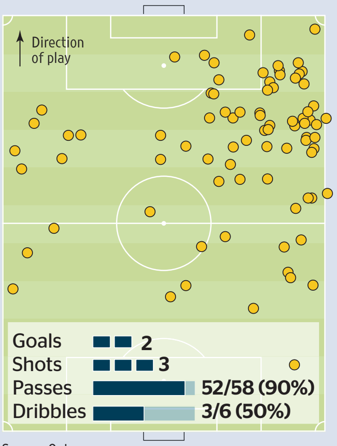
City doubled their lead within 12 minutes. Grealish attacked from the left and guided the ball in to Ilkay Gundogan, who took the ball in his stride, moving too fast for Federico Valverde, and bringing a good save from Courtois. The ball bounced up and Silva reacted quickest and best, steering his header over Alaba on the line. Carlo Ancelotti sat back exasperated in his seat.

His team could not match City's intensity. He eventually rose, surveying the wreckage of Real's season. Ancelotti stood forlorn at the edge of his area, pointing to nowhere in particular, resembling a commuter on the platform realising the last train has gone. Szymon Marciniak then blew for half-time, at least temporarily ending Real's pain.

But it resumed after 75 minutes. Grealish was fouled by Carvajal and then Militão. Exploiting that latter offence, De Bruyne whipped in the free kick, Akanji made contact and the ball went in off Militão. City ruthlessly, gloriously added a fourth when Foden teased the perfect pass through Real's ragged defence for Alvarez to place his shot past Courtois. The rout was complete, the route to Istanbul was clear.

**Silva's special night**

His touches against Real Madrid at the Etihad




Source: Opta



Silva, who put in a virtuoso performance, curls the ball beyond Alaba and into the corner for City's opening goal, before he

**Manchester City** (4-3-3): Ederson 8 — K Walker 8, J Stones 9, R Dias 8, M Akanji 8 — K De Bruyne 9 (P Foden 84min), Rodri 8, I Gundogan 9 (R Mahrez 79) — B Silva 9, E Haaland 8 (J Álvarez 89), J Grealish 8. **Booked** Dias, Gundogan.
**Real Madrid** (4-3-3): T Courtois 8 — D Carvajal 5 (L Vázquez 80), É Militão 5, D Alaba 6, E Camavinga 5 (A Tchouaméni 80) — F Valverde 5, T Kroos 6 (M Asensio 70, 5), L Modric 5 (A Rüdiger 63, 5) — Rodrygo 5 (D Ceballos 80), K Benzema 5, Vinícius Jr 5. **Booked** Carvajal.
**Referee** S Marciniak (Pol).

## Grealish: Not many sides

CONTINUED FROM BACK

away. We are close and we are going to try."

City can claim the first of the three trophies this weekend. They will seal the Premier League title if they beat Chelsea on Sunday or Arsenal lose to Nottingham Forest the day before.

They also face Manchester United in the FA Cup final on June 3, seven days before their date in Istanbul.

Guardiola said that last night's victory against the 14-times European champions — who eliminated City at the same stage of the competition 12 months ago — was the best performance of the season for his team.

"It was the highest [level] we could perform considering the opponent," Guardiola said.

City, who are now 23 matches unbeaten, dominated Real all night and the Spanish team could not cope with the quality and energy of the hosts. Guardiola said that his team used the agony of last season's dramatic defeat, when City conceded two late goals in the second leg before going out after extra time, to drive them on.

"I had the feeling that the pain we all felt last season was there today," Guardiola said. "It was so hard, so tough to swallow that poison last year.

"When the draw was Madrid this year, I said, 'Yeah, I want it.'

"Football gives you another opportunity and one year later we are in the final of the Champions League, and we are one game away from being [Premier League champions] three years in a row. We can beat everyone."

Jack Grealish, the City forward, shared Guardiola's optimism.

"When we're all together we just feel unstoppable," Grealish said. "It's unbelievable. We spoke last week after the game and I was buzzing then to be

# European game on its axis




CARL RECINE/REUTERS; TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER BRADLEY ORMESHER

**doubled their lead 14 minutes later, inset, with a looping header after Gundogan's initial effort had been saved by Courtois**

## could do that, we all feel unstoppable



**Ancelotti, embracing Guardiola at the end, accepted City were "superior"**

**City's three steps to the Treble**

**1) Premier League** City will win it if they beat Chelsea on Sunday (and will effectively win it anyway if Arsenal do not beat Nottingham Forest on Saturday).
**2) FA Cup** City will win it if they beat Manchester United in the final at Wembley on Saturday, June 3.
**3 Champions League** City will win it if they beat Inter Milan in the final in Istanbul on June 10.

involved and now a week later I'm standing here again and it's 4-0. I don't think a lot of teams would do that to Real Madrid."

There was a minor skirmish at the end of the match when the former Manchester United defender Patrice Evra, wearing a red suit, became involved in a heated discussion with some City staff during the celebrations on the touchline. Evra was working as a TV pundit at the match.

They all shook hands afterwards, though, and those involved insisted that they had settled their differences amicably. Carlo Ancelotti, the Real head coach, had no complaints about the result, admitting that City had been by far the best team over the two legs, the first having finished 1-1 at the Bernabéu.

Barcelona took Real's La Liga title off them this season and they failed to retain the Champions League, but Ancelotti insisted that the campaign had been a success.

Florentino Pérez, the Real president, said at the start of May that Ancelotti would fulfil his contract, which expires at the end of next season, and the Italian does not believe that he will go back on his word.

"No one doubts me," he said. "The president was very clear 15 days ago.

"Next season I will be here [at Real Madrid] to fight to win another Champions League.

"Reaching the Champions League semi-finals is a success. Today we lost to the superior side."

# Grand old men of Madrid falling off pace at last

Jude Bellingham will aid Real's midfield rebuild but he has huge boots to fill, writes **Owen Slot**



Real Madrid would come back, wouldn't they? That's what they do. Real Madrid don't need the ball. They're just happy containing. That's what they do.

But Eduardo Camavinga is on the edge of the box and even there, he cannot hold onto it. He has two City players unsettling him, stripping him of even a millisecond's control, and then the ball is gone. It is City's again and they are pressing. There is a scramble in the box. They nearly score again. That is nearly their third.

Really, Real Madrid are coming back? Can they really be remotely content?

They cannot keep the ball for more than three or four passes. They try playing out through Karim Benzema but he doesn't know where to turn, he is pressed the moment the ball is at his feet. Rúben Dias dispossesses him.

Luca Modric tries to play the ball up the right flank. Again, the press is on and there is no respect here for one of the finest, smartest technicians in the game. Modric protects the ball but, with nowhere to go, he eventually tries the long-odds solution and backheels the ball hoping to find Rodrygo — but that doesn't work. The ball goes out for a throw. That doesn't work. Does anything work?

Nothing was working for Real Madrid here last night. For the first half hour, the possession stats showed between 80 and 90 per cent in City's favour. This wasn't just dominance of a game, it was ownership.

It was the new age. This was City's stranglehold on English football finally extending to the rest of Europe. It felt like the fall of the *ancien régime*. Without the extraordinary feats of Thibaut Courtois, it would have been a cataclysmic collapse. City were ushering the grand old man of European football into an unwanted retirement. Hand on the back, there you go, no, you can't have the ball.

And maybe this was always coming: City's relentless rise finally crossing with Real, a team whose decade of dominance crested and started to dip. Real have not been a creation but a culmination, a decade as jigsaw pieces feeling increasingly comfortable together. They know they fit and they play like that. They are the definition of cohesion. At least they have been, but nothing fits together when City deny the pieces the time to reassemble. At some point, growth reaches a peak. This semi-final was a test of whether Real had reached that point and City handed them the brutal answer.

Benzema is in his 13th season here, Modric his 11th, Toni Kroos his ninth. That is an incredible stretch of time building an instinctive understanding of where to find your team-mates and how they want the ball to find them. Add in Dani Carvajal, and you have four players in the starting XI yesterday who have each won five Champions League titles. With Nacho on the bench, that makes five.

Yet there comes a time when they cannot surprise Manchester City with an incredible last-gasp grab for the honours like last year. There has to be such a time. You cannot storm the citadel forever. And maybe when Benzema, Modric and Kroos are 35 years old, 37 and 33 respectively, that is the time.

It is not as if Real have overlooked the process of regeneration. In the past year, Casemiro has gone and Aurélien Tchouaméni has arrived. They appear to have pinned their next transfer market hopes on Jude Bellingham. So the ambition is as vaunted as ever. With Federico Valverde, that could be a midfield worthy of any team in Europe.

Yet they wouldn't have that same decade of collective knowledge and experience that the senior multiple winners have been building. When Pep Guardiola buys a new midfielder, he puts him into dormancy for a season, schools him, tells him to study the patterns and relearn the game. However brilliant Bellingham is, he cannot be expected to lift Real straight back to City's levels.

For now, while Real Madrid are pausing for breath, City are charging ahead. Past the best in England, past the established hierarchy of Europe. Real and Bayern Munich are two of Europe's superpowers, yet City barely struggled against either.

"Let's not make a drama out of it," Carlo Ancelotti, the Real Madrid head coach, said afterwards. He also confirmed, contrary to speculation, that he will remain at Madrid next season. Yet however he prefers to debate this game publicly, he will know that a dramatic step forward will be required to stop City getting out of reach.

In the final 20 minutes here, everyone was looking tired. So what of that thrilling comeback from the old stagers? Not a chance, not even close, not a glimmer of it, because Manchester City didn't just depose the European champions last night, they destroyed them.



**Benzema shows his frustration at the Etihad**

# Sport

**No limp excuses from Bairstow**
Talisman ready to shrug off injury and battle for Ashes
Page 63



**Imola called off**
F1 race unlikely to be rescheduled after flooding causes chaos
Page 64



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER BRADLEY ORMESHER

# Guardiola's masterclass

## We can dream of Treble now says City boss after stunning dismantling of champions Real



| | |
|---|---|
| Manchester City | 4 |
| Real Madrid | 0 |

*City win 5-1 on aggregate*

**Paul Hirst**

Pep Guardiola told his Manchester City players they can start dreaming of the Treble after they trounced Real Madrid to reach the Champions League final.

Bernardo Silva scored twice and Manuel Akanji and Julián Álvarez were also on the scoresheet as City won 4-0 at the Etihad to complete a 5-1 aggregate victory and set up a final against Inter Milan in Istanbul on June 10.

Guardiola has previously been reluctant to speak about winning the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League Treble, which has been achieved only once before — by Manchester United in 1999 — but last night he said: "Now the players can visualise it. It's normal, we are three games

Continued on page 68

**Champions League final**
**Manchester City v Inter Milan**
Saturday, June 10
Kick-off 8pm
*Ataturk Olympic Stadium, Istanbul*

Silva celebrates opening the scoring last night. He added a second as City thrashed Real to reach the Champions League final, much to the delight of Guardiola, inset

# Eight-month ban for Toney

**Tom Roddy**

The Brentford and England striker Ivan Toney has been given an immediate eight-month suspension from football and fined £50,000 by the FA for 232 breaches of its betting rules.

Toney, 27, has been banned from representing either club or country up to and including January 16 next year after his appearance in front of a disciplinary panel on Tuesday.

He was also warned about his future conduct after admitting 232 of the 262 breaches with which he was charged in December. The FA subsequently withdrew 30 charges. The written reasons for the punishment or details of his offences are yet to be published.

Toney will begin his ban by missing Brentford's final two games of the Premier League season — against Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday and

Continued on page 66

# Nadal out of French Open

**Stuart Fraser** Tennis Correspondent

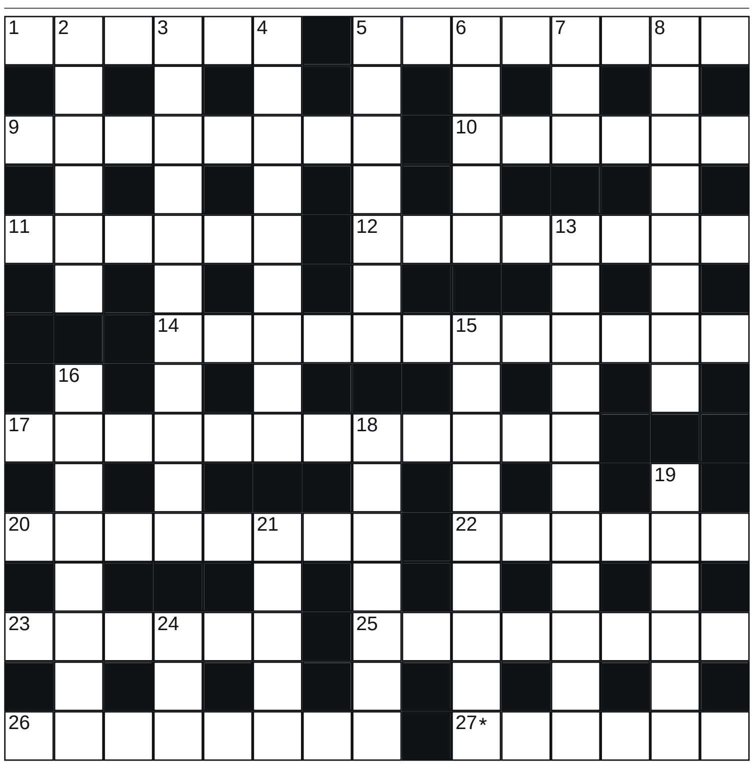
Rafael Nadal is set to withdraw from the French Open for the first time since 2004. The 14-times Roland Garros champion has called a press conference today at which he is expected to concede defeat in his battle to be fit for the grand-slam tournament where he has enjoyed the most success.

Nadal, 36, has been absent from the tour since January because of a hip injury. He has taken part in regular training sessions at his academy in Mallorca but has not felt fit enough to compete in any of the events held in Europe during the clay-court swing.

Several reports in Spain claimed that Nadal will announce that he is unable to play at Roland Garros from May 28. A spokesman would neither confirm nor deny these reports, instead

Continued on page 60

## Times Crossword 28,606



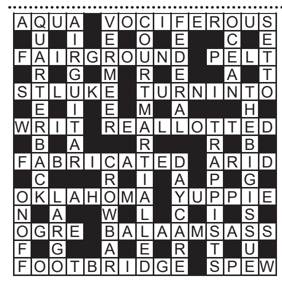
**ACROSS**

1 Seeing out guests? Only the first (6)
5 Place to save game point, suffering losses (8)
9 What should be sweet dream, curiously filled with ecstasy and divine sun (8)
10 Races to get hold of smart electronic device (6)
11 What consumer of junk food did after cycling spin (6)
12 Nobody let off steam, which is a disappointment (3-5)
14 Travelling high in icy area after day playing golf (5-7)
17 Spanish girl wearing indoor accessories, being evasive (12)
20 After split, decline to show evidence of sorrow (8)
22 Vehicle which needs a steer? (6)
23 One single soldier keeps blooming rodent (6)
25 Scrap extremely garish suit jackets after trouble (8)
26 New cat food bags good in case of sudden damage (3,2,3)
27 Partners accepting stake in French football team (6)

**DOWN**

2 During autumn time in Spain, cheer up feline (6)
3 Crystallised mineral in two supermarkets (7,4)
4 Blame energy cuts given wrong rumours? (9)
5 Young maverick is to attend prison, about to leave (7)
6 I shan't put on weight — this is beyond the pale! (3,2)
7 Start of royal book tours you heard to create friction (3)
8 Long to eat something on plate before noon, eating for two (8)
13 Classical sextets with part in experimental work (11)
15 Leftie gathering English magazine is *Melody Maker* (4,5)
16 Parisian's to go and smoke, upset and liable to react badly (8)
18 Blocked tiny amount of cash divided by Mike Edwards (7)
19 Diminutive fellow knowing that is from Rome (6)
21 Feeling sheepish about having donned toupee going outside (5)
24 Love following United making comeback? Sky might show this (3)

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12 SOLVING NHS ENGAGEMENT ISSUES




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Distributed in
THE TIMES

Publication sponsored by
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FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

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DATA STRATEGY

# How to realise data potential without compromising trust

People want digital services that make their lives easier. But data silos and a general distrust of government initiatives have held back progress

**Tamlin Magee**



STR/NurPhoto via Getty Images

Data really does make the world go around. With the 'app-ification' of everything, consumers now expect this world at their fingertips – a simple swipe here or a tap there and they've got almost everything they could ask for. Understandably, people want to use similarly sophisticated systems to access public services. Shouldn't a hospital have access to medical notes from a GP, by default? But those joined-up, data-powered, personalised experiences have been elusive. So far.

The UK was early off the blocks in the race to digitise government. Many of its services, like the Gov.uk website, won awards. Now, though, the public is more concerned with the government's ability to manage data responsibly. Just take a look at Deloitte's *The State of the State 2022-23* report, which found that when engaging with public services online, 73% of respondents said data security is "essential" or "very important". But according to the Thales *2022 Consumer Digital Trust Index*, Brits just don't trust the government with their data. Only 19% of respondents believe the government will keep their personal data secure, which is among the lowest level of trust for any nation.

That's not to say that the public sector is barren of examples where data is driving utility and innovation. Caroline Carruthers, the former chief data officer for Network Rail, points to the fact that Fire and Rescue Services have started using digital twins for training purposes. The interiors of buildings are mapped out in virtual worlds so, rather than setting a room on fire, recruits can simply don a headset. The Police Digital Service, meanwhile, coordinates cloud deployments and knowledge-sharing among the UK's many forces. And NHS Digital, which recently merged with NHS England, has rolled out plenty of tech-powered programmes, from the Adoption Registration Service to the urgent care self-service tool used in A&Es.

So there's a plethora of digital services that do exist. Delivered well, these can "cut through the politics and inform superior public services," says Kevin Curran, professor of cybersecurity at Ulster University. Consider the Covax project by Ireland's Health Service Executive (HSE). While the organisation had long planned to digitise, the emergency of the Covid crisis forced the HSE into taking action. It built web portals for public engagement, managed vaccine appointments by the cloud, reported using business analytics and created an API-led approach to connectivity that joined up all the systems that sprang to life. It's a far cry from spreadsheets and PowerPoint slides.

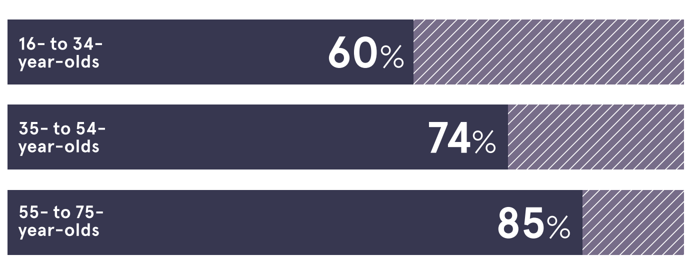
Yet there remain roadblocks to making good on the public sector data promise, not least that low level of trust, combined with often disconnected and siloed data and a complex tangle of regulations. Perhaps even more pressing is what Carruthers calls a "paralysis of perfection", when the fear of a failure to achieve immediate excellence hampers that first leap towards innovative thinking.

"People are frightened to take that first step because they're wandering into the unknown or they believe they're going to end up on the front page of the *Daily Mail*," Carruthers says. "The idea of failing is this sword of Damocles hanging over their head. But unless they can experiment and innovate, how do they move forward?"

One possible solution lies in starting small, to solve common low-stakes problems where "nobody is going to die" if it goes wrong, she adds. By running small-scale simple pilots, organisations can test their methodology around how they solve challenges and deploy the technology, rather than getting bogged down in the problem itself and if it careens off course.

**DATA SECURITY IS THE TOP CONCERN**

UK citizens who say that taking appropriate steps to ensure the safety of data is the most important thing when it comes to digital services




Deloitte, 2022

Incremental steps like these can help organisations see where they're getting service delivery right and where there's room for improvement. At the same time, it removes – or at least lessens – the pressure of that perfection paralysis.

Another glaring issue is the complexity of the public sector itself. While service users may view organisations such as the NHS as a monolith, it in fact consists of 219 trusts. The labyrinthine structures that have evolved over the years across the public sector mean that is often siloed and subject to its own specific legislation, depending on the function of the public body – whether that's policing or cross-country data-sharing. There's no getting around this, and it should be thought of as an opportunity to ensure that data is protected.

"There can be privacy issues in releasing public data sets," Curran says. "Care needs to be taken to prevent any personally identifiable information from being released inadvertently. There is also a need to clarify terms of how the government can access and release any large-scale population data."

While there has been progress in connecting this data, this must continue. Verifying the quality of data is a tough nut to crack until the issue of silos is tackled.

John Bruce is co-founder and CEO of Solid (Social Linked Data), Sir Tim Berners-Lee's web decentralisation project. Bruce explains that data tends to collect in silos from one government agency to the next and the result of that is that these silos grow independently and operate out of sight of the citizen. That can translate to little in the way of transparency around how that citizen's data is used. To help solve this, Solid recently spearheaded a digital identity project in Belgium. Millions of citizens in Flanders access public services using a digital identity that is contained in a personal data store called a Solid Pod.

"The question of whether citizens trust their government to use data responsibly can vary massively. But technology can open two-way communication between citizens and governments, which garners trust," Bruce says. "Citizens want to have some visibility into what the government knows about them – and the ability to augment that information when it's relevant. Digital services work best when citizens feel that their individual needs and circumstances are properly understood." ●




INCLUSIVITY

# Gap analysis: how to solve the UK's digital exclusion problem

In their rush to digitalise, public sector organisations must remember that millions of vulnerable citizens remain ill-equipped to go online and access services that could help them the most

**Sally Whittle**

Every morning, a team of volunteers boards a converted double-decker bus to roam Gloucestershire offering free IT support and training to digitally disadvantaged people around the county. In a typical session, the trainers might show someone seeking council housing how to submit an online application or help an elderly person who's struggling with their first smartphone to set up the NHS App.

"It's easy to assume that everyone is online and has the digital skills to use public services," says Lucy Pollock, general manager of the DigiBus service. "That's not the case."

Research published by Ofcom last year indicated that 6% of British households did not have internet access at home, for instance. Over-75s, unsurprisingly, remain at most risk of digital exclusion. A study by Age UK in 2021 estimated that 2 million people in this age group were offline – and that only 15% of them had any interest in remedying that state of affairs. Other disadvantaged groups include single-person households, unemployed people and those with disabilities such as visual impairments.

The Good Things Foundation is a charity that's spearheading the effort to build the UK's first national device bank. It supplies laptops, tablets and phones reconditioned from e-waste programmes, along with prepaid SIM cards that have been donated by mobile networks, to thousands of community groups around the country.

Ensuring that everyone has the kit to get online is one thing, but digital exclusion often results from a lack of basic IT skills, notes Natasha Bright-Wray, the foundation's associate director of communications, campaigns and advocacy.

"Without real investment in skills, nothing will change," she argues. "That's why we're also trying to develop a national minimum digital standard of living. This identifies what support is needed to give people enough knowledge to be included in digital services."

The Welsh government is already in the process of adopting the standard, Bright-Wray adds.

Services such as the DigiBus provide vital support to local communities. While users can borrow devices from it to get online, the most important element of the project is that it gives people IT skills and the confidence to apply them, Pollock stresses.

"We have a large population of people who grew up in a non-digital world," she says. "We're often engaging with people who don't think that anyone can help them."

The problem doesn't always lie with the users of public services, adds Pollock, who explains that too many providers aren't designing and delivering digital facilities with enough consideration for the needs of vulnerable citizens.

"Most apps are not developed with the involvement of people with lived experience of these barriers to access," she says. "If you look at the hoops that people have to jump through to access key services, you can see why vulnerable users get stuck and just give up."

> It's easy to assume that everyone is online and has the digital skills to use public services. That's not the case

If a local authority requires prospective applicants to register online before they can use a given facility, that can be a huge problem, especially if that facility – a mental health service, say – is aimed at helping vulnerable people.

"If you're someone who doesn't know how to use email or scan and upload ID documents, you're locked out of the service completely," Bright-Wray says.

The adult social care team at Kent County Council recently completed a three-year project to detect barriers to digital inclusion and develop a new suite of online services with these in mind. Having identified "lack of support" as a key barrier, it trained a group of volunteers who could provide such assistance in the community.

The team also invited residents and service users to give their input at the design stage, notes Georgina Walton, senior project manager for adult social care at the council.

"The idea of co-production is important," she says. "I could have a whole set of ideas for a service, but I'm not someone who'll be using it. We're developing all these digital services, but they're going to fail if the people they're supposed to help can't access them and don't get the support they need."

Since the end of the project, the council has launched a range of facilities designed with inclusivity in mind, such as a talking therapy service that uses smart speakers.

"That service has been built for people who struggle with anxiety and are still at the stage where they need support that doesn't require



### What is digital exclusion?

According to Ofcom, someone can be classed as digitally excluded when they have problems using online services for at least one of the following reasons: a lack of access (no home internet connection); a lack of ability (poor IT skills and low confidence in using services); and a lack of affordability (the inability to pay for the requisite hardware and/or network access).

Exclusion is most likely to be a problem for older citizens, with a quarter of elderly people lacking online access at home. A study published by Age UK has estimated that 42% of people aged 75 or over in this country don't use the internet.

Ofcom's 2022 research suggests that one in every 20 British households don't have home internet access. In October 2021, about two million households were thinking about downgrading or cancelling their home connections as a money-saving measure.

them to leave their homes," Walton explains. "This is about building innovative services that meet people where they are."

At Newham London Borough Council, there's a similar desire to involve the whole community in its digital transformation. Newham Sparks is an ambitious programme that aims to build specialist data skills, attract private investment and create more employment opportunities in one of the capital's poorest boroughs.

As part of this project, the council is developing partnerships with tech companies and working with local schools and colleges. One of the key ambitions is to bring more than 5,500 jobs into Newham, says Amit Shanker, its deputy CEO and chief digital officer.

While Newham Sparks is designed to equip young people with the latest digital skills, the council also wants to ensure that borough residents who are less IT-savvy also benefit. For instance, the old town hall building will be redeveloped into a high-tech "data campus" with a digital café on the ground floor. Here, any member of the community will be able to get online and obtain free help to access the council's 700-plus digital services.

"We will be providing access to hardware and an infrastructure of high-speed connectivity, so that people can simply walk in off the street and access those facilities," Shanker says. But he adds that it's important for any public sector body to accept that there will always be a significant minority of people who are unwilling and/or unable to go online in order to access their services.

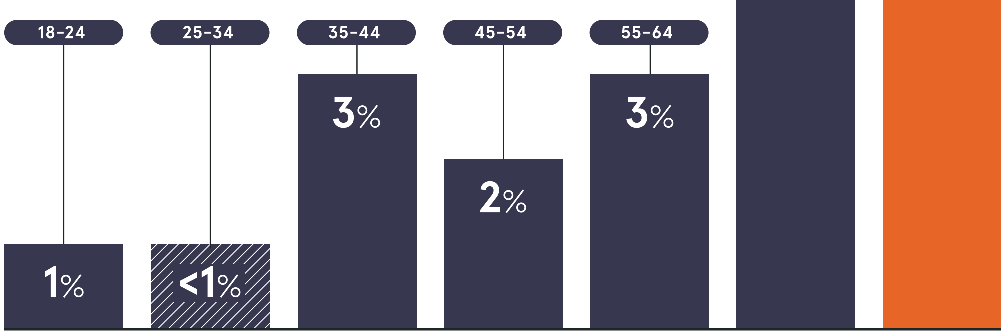
> **If you look at the hoops that people have to jump through to access important services, you can see why vulnerable users get stuck**

Shanker lives in a different borough, where parking meters no longer have coin slots. Residents are required to use an app to pay for parking spaces.

"I don't think that's fair," he says. "You can't expect everyone to make that transition. Are we really saying that residents of a certain age, who aren't digitally literate or who don't have easy online access, are no longer supposed to drive? To put it frankly, that's just not acceptable." ●

**OLDER PEOPLE ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE DIGITALLY EXCLUDED**

Percentage of UK citizens who did not have internet access at home as of 2021, by age group




Ofcom, 2022

INSIGHT

# 'The scaffolding to support digital skills and innovation'

Tech partners and local councils must work together to boost skills and innovation, says **Julian David**, CEO of techUK

Set against a backdrop of rising citizen expectations and financial constraints, local government is no stranger to doing more for less. The real reward, however, is when councils find ways to improve services for their citizens. This is where innovation comes in.

A commitment to innovation offers space to rethink processes and, in the case of local government, ultimately leads to creating places where citizens thrive and feel safe. To deliver meaningful innovation, we need to create an environment where technology can flourish and a culture that empowers people to take risks and fail fast. Technology is the easy bit. At the heart of change is people, from leadership buy-in to attracting and retaining the talent to deliver transformative services.

But the public sector faces a skills challenge – and organisations won't be able to make the leap to new ways of working if they can't hire the right talent in the fields of technology, digital and data. The London Office of Technology and Innovation (LOTI) recognises how this hinders councils. It has pulled together a 10-point plan of action to help boroughs access digital skills, from establishing a community of practice to setting up a LOTI job board.

Councils have a crucial role to play in creating a digital skills pipeline. They can help to nurture this by providing and supporting infrastructure investments that align with their local economic strategy and vision. For example, Newham London Borough Council has unveiled its plans for London's first data campus at East Ham Town Hall. These plans are part of the council's £1.2m investment in Newham Sparks, a programme to bring digital and data education, and skills and employment opportunities to the borough. Elsewhere, the Norfolk and Suffolk Innovation Network will help to build a digital ecosystem to boost entrepreneurship, digital skills and economic growth.

The tech industry needs to provide the scaffolding to support digital skills and innovation. TechSkills, techUK's digital skills arm, does this by bringing together employers and educators to develop accredited pathways into tech careers, opening up alternative ways to enter the industry by offering degrees and apprenticeships from level three (advanced) through to level seven (MSc), as well as short training programmes and accredited boot camps.

We also need to collaborate across both the public sector and the supplier base. We ultimately have the shared ambition to make things better for citizens. Gone are the days of suppliers being seen as sales partners. They are now valued as a vital cog in the machine, helping to facilitate change and offering expertise. TechUK's *Local Public Services Innovation* paper outlines how councils can grasp the innovation opportunity and maximise the benefits they derive from digital technologies and their suppliers. This includes early and effective market engagement so councils can be on top of the latest technological trends and understand the art of the possible. Technology suppliers can add particular value when it comes to the 'unknown.' That is why techUK has established the Innovators Network, a forum for councils to connect with innovators and access new technologies, which will help to solve some of the public sector's most pressing challenges.

Our public services can lead the way in teaming up with innovative solutions that inspire and motivate the UK to greater success on behalf of its citizens. As outlined in the government's *Science & Technology Framework*, we need to create the workforce of tomorrow and develop an environment that supports innovation. Together we can deliver change and a brighter future for society and the economy. ●



**Julian David**
CEO, techUK

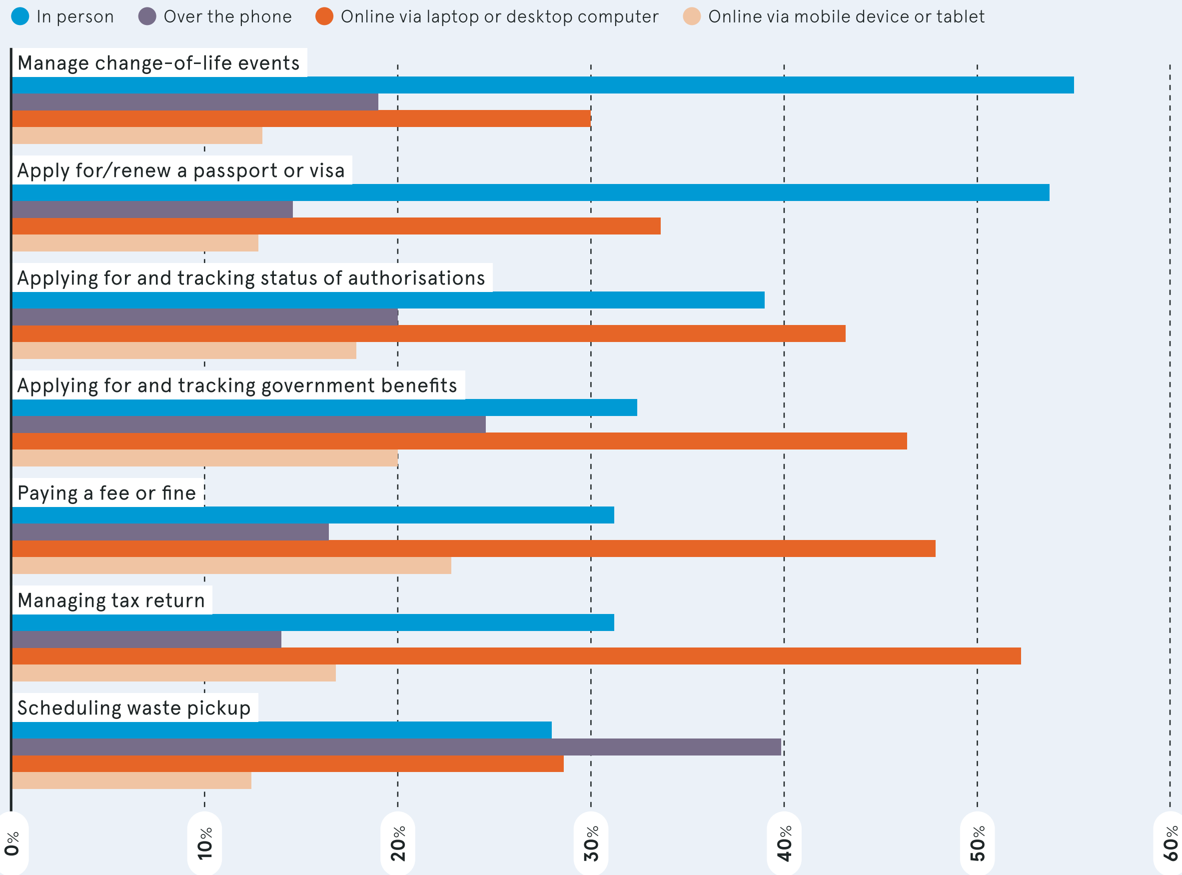
Commercial feature

# Front door to foundations: redesigning digital citizen experiences

From improving public access for the disabled to helping Brits abroad get instant help, it is time for the public sector to embrace transparent, holistic processes with staff and users at their heart

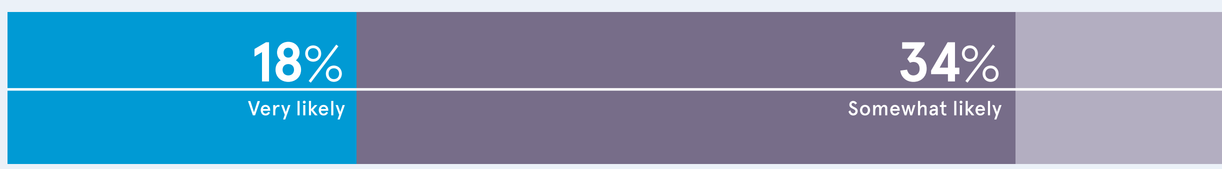
## CITIZENS GENERALLY USE DIGITAL CHANNELS FOR MORE TRANSACTIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

How have you primarily managed the following government interactions?




## THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE ARE LIKELY TO USE NEW DIGITAL SERVICES

How likely are you to use new technologies to engage with the government?




Those with accessibility needs can often feel at the back of the queue when it comes to using public services. A simple interaction with providers may involve long call times or difficult journeys. And often, vulnerable citizens may have to wait until a carer or member of the family is around to help. So, when a service that supports 10,000 vulnerable people in South Australia talked of taking a "risk" when rebuilding its accessibility offering, it would be reasonable to assume there were significant challenges.

Instead, Joe Young, director of service reform at South Australia Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) and his team sought to create one "source of truth" across AU$300m worth of services, a single digital platform where everything users might ever need – whether they are clients, carers or NGO service providers – was accessible in one place. Need a wheelchair ramp, a carer's grant, or a visit from occupational health? The new reimagined system enables all parties to tackle each issue on one platform at the same time. This not only means fewer forms and shorter call waiting times but also more time for carers to respond to urgent needs rather than paper chase or send endless updates to clients.



**Simon Collinson**
Head of UK public sector at Salesforce

The DCSI also deployed Salesforce's Community Cloud to launch MySupportAdvisor.com.au – an online community where people with disabilities publicly rate and review service providers – meaning every scrap of data or user feedback provides a constant feedback loop, delivering useful improvements to create the front door services users want.

This overhaul paid back dividends. Payments processed by the DCSI nearly doubled and processing times shrunk "astonishingly" from six weeks to less than three days, says Young, all while administration staff numbers remained static. Todd Williams, executive manager at Cara, a provider delivering complex, 24-hour disability support in 77 locations in Australia, praised the new transparency. "We can see what we're contracted to provide, right down to which support workers, and on what days and where."

The new shift also did the hardest job in government – breaking down multi-agency silos, which juggle people through one department to another, meaning true needs get lost between cracks, says Simon Collinson, head of UK public sector at Salesforce. "The UK government doesn't want another product vendor, what it wants is an innovation partner for change. One that links front office experiences, middle office processing and back office data seamlessly. Government has an issue with not connecting front experiences with the back office."

### Improving services and retaining staff

Faced with economic uncertainty and having to deliver results for a government which faces an election in the next two years, the UK public sector needs affordable solutions that solve crises without breaking the stride of hard-working staff.

This extra pressure also means the UK public sector faces a talent retention crisis – with around 5.2% of staff leaving or switching departments during the period between March 2021 and March 2022 – something which directly impacts end users. The key to keeping together the UK's "Rolls-Royce civil service" is giving them the right tools and data, which allows them to make an impact and deliver change effectively, says Collinson.

> **The public sector doesn't want off-the-shelf tech products, what they want is an innovation partner for change**

To do this, Salesforce "t-shirt sizes" its solutions to showcase both the experience and the likely delivery costs and timescales. This makes the change real to users, says Collinson. "We know it's hard for departments to move quickly and adopt new technologies. They want to try before they buy, not just have a PowerPoint about how it might look. We also bring global Salesforce case studies – from the US, EMEA and Australia – and say 'here's a big city example; here's a tiny village example.'" Examples of how commercial entities engage in digital transformation can help too.

The General Service Administration in the US wanted to create a change that instantly improved daily tasks for staff and its users. Salesforce helped them create an entire app store that offered staff across all departments a common set of apps that unified correspondence and contact management. This also allowed the government to track usage and show the data each interaction produced, as well as the depth to which each app was used. This transparent, flexible user experience kept the end customer in mind throughout, whilst also providing an essential feedback loop.

### Balancing digital and human experience

Recent Salesforce research into global trends and attitudes impacting citizen and government interactions found that, while citizens are open to digital services, for more complex issues they tend to want to be able to speak to someone too.

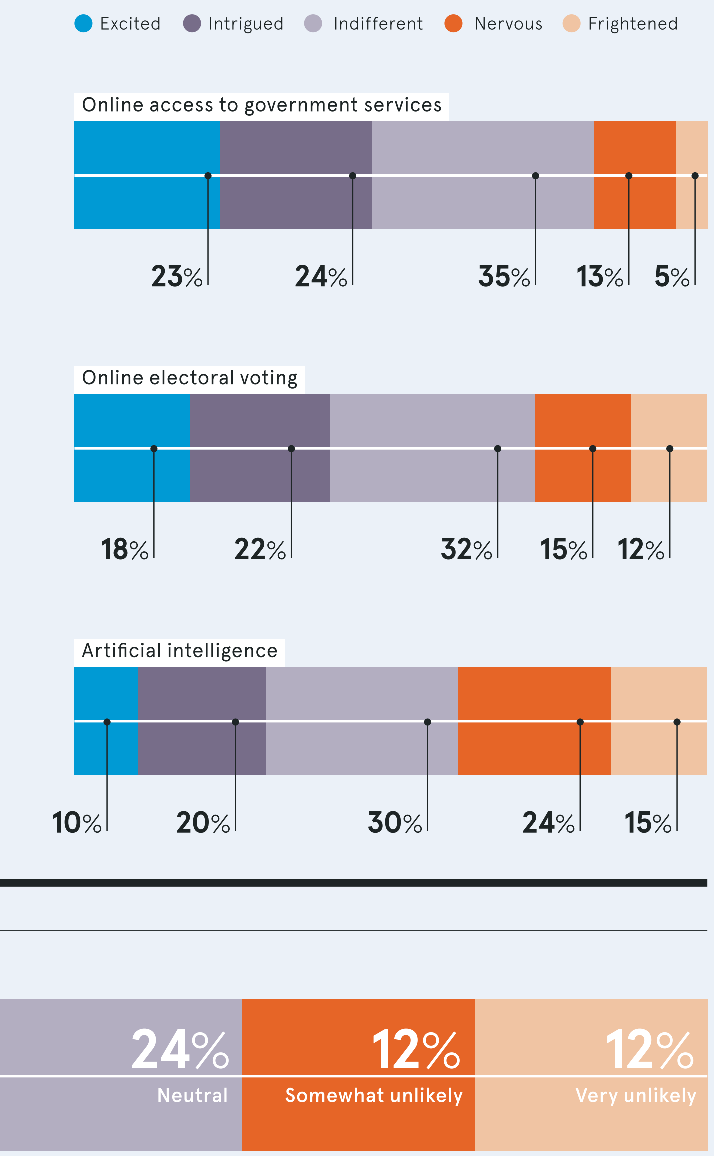
"It is fine to be digital," says Collinson. "But when things go wrong, people want to know who they can turn to and where they are in the process. There is a lot of worry around 'will granny be able to understand this?'. However, through relentless research, we see that older citizens are very IT-engaged, so long as services are easy to use and consistent, and there is a person they can speak to when things go wrong."

Contact centres can drive down needless engagement by allowing simple tasks to be done by AI, and also allow staff to deal with complex and difficult problems. This not only helps the public sector retain staff, but also provides a better service for users. A good example of this is a contact hub that Salesforce created alongside the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

This universal platform, operational in 200 consular regions, helps British nationals tackle any issue they may face abroad, from lost passports to kidnapping or the sudden death of a relative. By working closely with the staff on the ground, rather than simply prescribing technology, Salesforce and FCDO got the new portal up and running within three months. Critically, says Collinson, this portal can be flexed up or down to suit needs, whilst also monitoring data and

**THOSE NERVOUS OR FRIGHTENED ABOUT NEW PUBLIC SECTOR TECHNOLOGY ARE IN THE MINORITY**

How do you feel about the government introducing the following technologies?




Salesforce Connected Government Report, 2022

offering transparent progress reports for staff of all agencies so they can instantly understand complicated processes.

**Providing flexibility in times of crisis**
In 2018, the Cabinet Office embarked on an ambitious programme to create a platform that would give them agility and a single view of grant assessments. Ivana Gordon, head of government grants management function response at the Cabinet Office says: "We wanted to build something at the centre with no barriers to access across government or the public sector, which meant a cloud-based platform with the right security accreditations."

Spotlight was the outcome – a due diligence tool to check recipients and ensure money goes to the right places, marrying everything from HMRC and Experian checks to open sources and criminal records. However, when Covid-19 struck barely a year later, Spotlight switched from being a useful admin tool to being placed at the heart of the economic response. The delivery of billions of pounds of grants became pivotal to keeping the country going, sifting through fraudulent claims whilst providing immediate data to back-end offices.

This flexibility is key to maximising value while meeting changing user demands, says Collinson. "We create things that can be small or large applications, that are easy to spin up and spin down as needed. Spotlight started as a stop check, then – with grants increasing – we needed rapid platforms to solve an issue that also spotted fraudsters applying for grants."

Some 55,000 civil servants log into and trust a Salesforce platform of some description across police forces, schools, hospitals and admin offices. This adaptability while meeting complex commercial and technological needs enables public services to embrace transformative change, Collinson explains. "[Public service organisations say] 'That was easy, what else can we do with this? How far can we go? Can we solve the other problems we have the same way?' That's the best praise we can have."

**Find out more at salesforce.com/uk/publicsector**

# Q&A

## How a digital police station is transforming victim journeys

Former police chief inspector **Andy Doran** joined the force in 2006. However, he left Lancashire Constabulary for Salesforce in 2021 in a bid to transform the way policing and citizens interact



**Q What issues did police forces have keeping victims updated when you left the police?**

**A** Policing is facing a difficult time in terms of public trust and confidence, but it is essential to recognise the vast majority of dedicated officers and staff who go to work every day and put others first. However, their time is often taken up with demands that the public would not necessarily expect the police to deal with, and this has a profound impact on their ability to keep victims updated. From my experience, this results in repeated calls on 101 and 999 from victims and members of the public asking for an update. Lack of updates also drives increased complaints and victim and witness attrition. Keeping victims updated is essential to building trust and confidence in our police service.

> Whilst not everybody will wish to engage in a digital-first way, a digital police station introduces self-service, which is the missing link to effective channel management in policing

**Q What is wrong with the way police record crimes?**

**A** The National Crime Recording Standards set out how policing must record crime, so it is less about what is wrong with the way it is recorded and more about how traditional policing technology and thinking focuses on the crime recording process as the golden thread. Often unintentionally, this shifts the raison d'être to ticking a compliance box but missing the point. Victims should always be at the centre of the investigation and, whilst crime recording is essential to legitimacy, it should never be at the expense of putting victims first.

**Q How does a digital police station improve this process?**

**A** A digital police station adds the requisite variety to meet the needs of the public. Whilst not everybody will wish to engage in a digital-first way, a digital police station introduces self-service, which is the missing link to effective channel management in policing. Whilst policing has opened up new digital channels to support the public, they have become digital letterboxes rather than a way for the public to get instant answers to predictable common questions. Salesforce is working with leading UK police forces on delivering personalised and automated citizen experiences, including a citizen portal where victims can log in and get updates on their crime while speaking with the officer on their case. This provides a superior user experience, reduces staff hindrance stressors and provides a more cost-effective service delivery model.

**Q Why hasn't this process been made smoother before now?**

**A** We keep throwing staff at the issue and becoming really efficient at simply doing the wrong thing, faster. Throughout policing, we have people acting as system integrators because the incumbent point-to-point applications often fail to communicate with each other. This means that officers and police staff have to double and triple check key data between systems.

Technology integration is often seen as a nice-to-have and not thought about as a strategic asset. This afterthought perpetuates the need for more back office teams who manually enter data rather than use their knowledge and experience to add value.

**Q What issues have legacy technology caused in this process?**

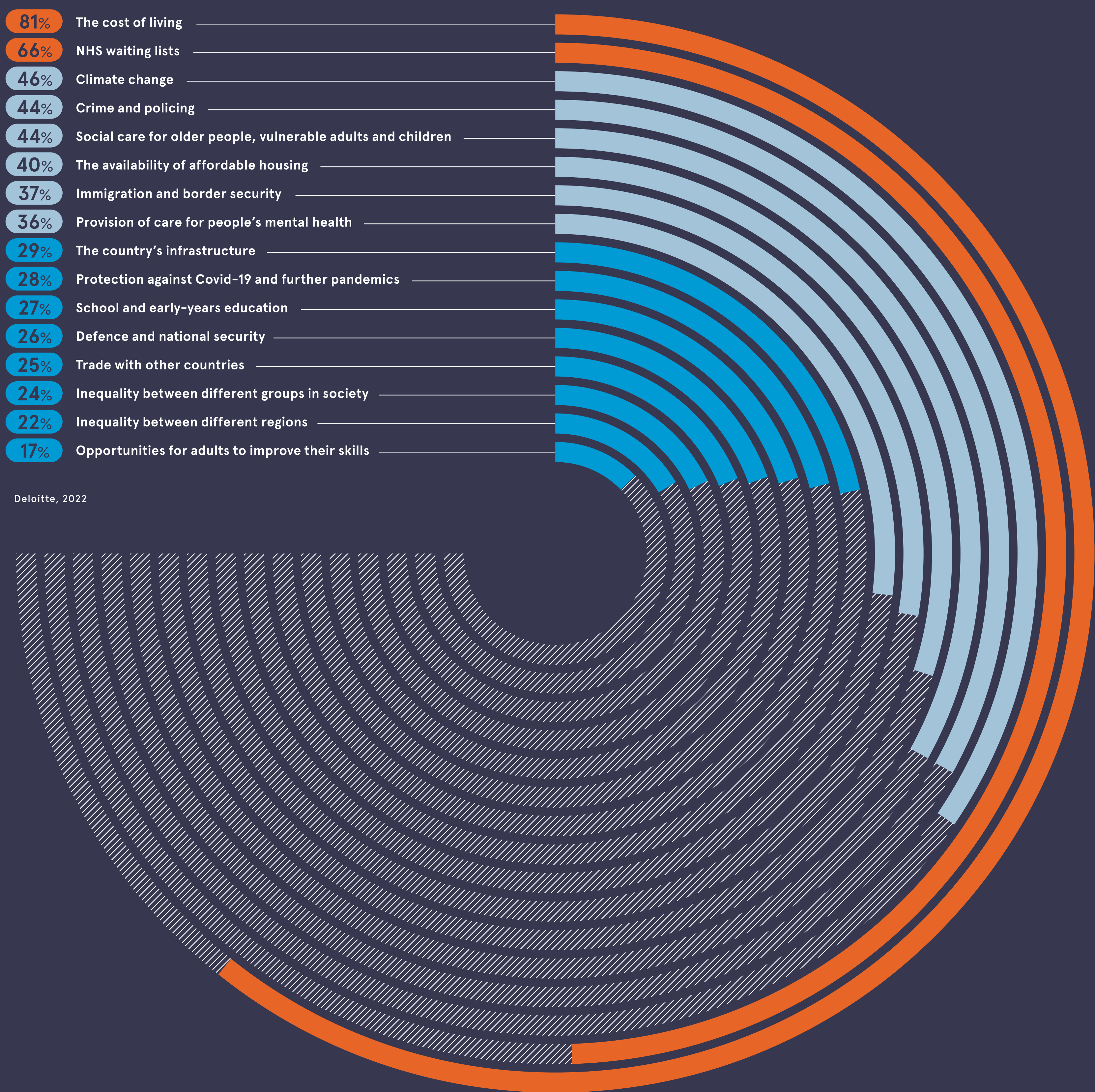
**A** I think it is less about apportioning blame to legacy technology and more about how policing buys technology. Traditionally, policing buys technology, often on premise, to fix a specific problem. As such, you end up with technical debt and spending more time keeping the lights on than innovating and making it easier for officers and staff to provide outstanding services to communities. Whilst the unit cost of these systems often appears more cost-effective, the proof is in the total cost of ownership and return on investment. From experience, this is often lacking. Moving to software- and platform-as-a-service enables IT teams to focus less on patching and maintenance and more on driving the changes that will make a difference to officers and staff, who in turn can provide a better service to the public.

# CITIZEN PRIORITIES AND TRUST

Against a backdrop of permacrisis, it's proving a challenge for the public sector to deliver services that citizens are satisfied with. What exactly are they looking for from public services? And to what extent do they trust the government to provide what they need?

## CITIZEN PRIORITIES FOR PUBLIC ISSUES

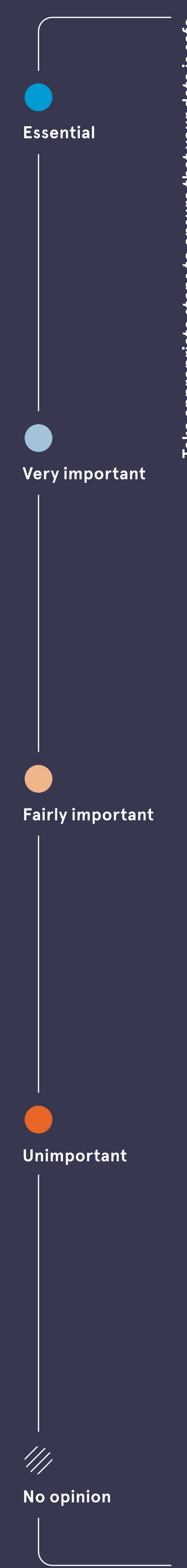
Percentage of citizens who say the following are top priorities for improvement in the UK over the next few years

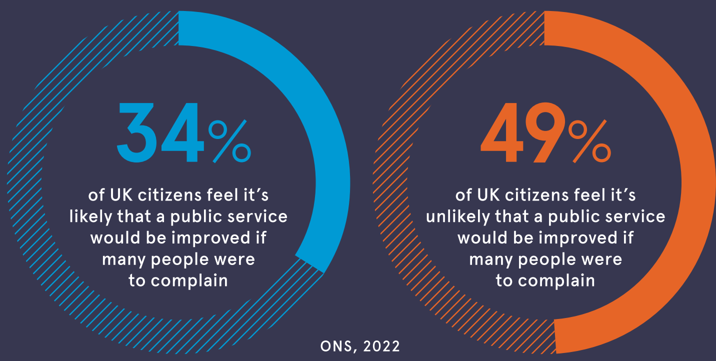



Deloitte, 2022

## CITIZEN PRIOI

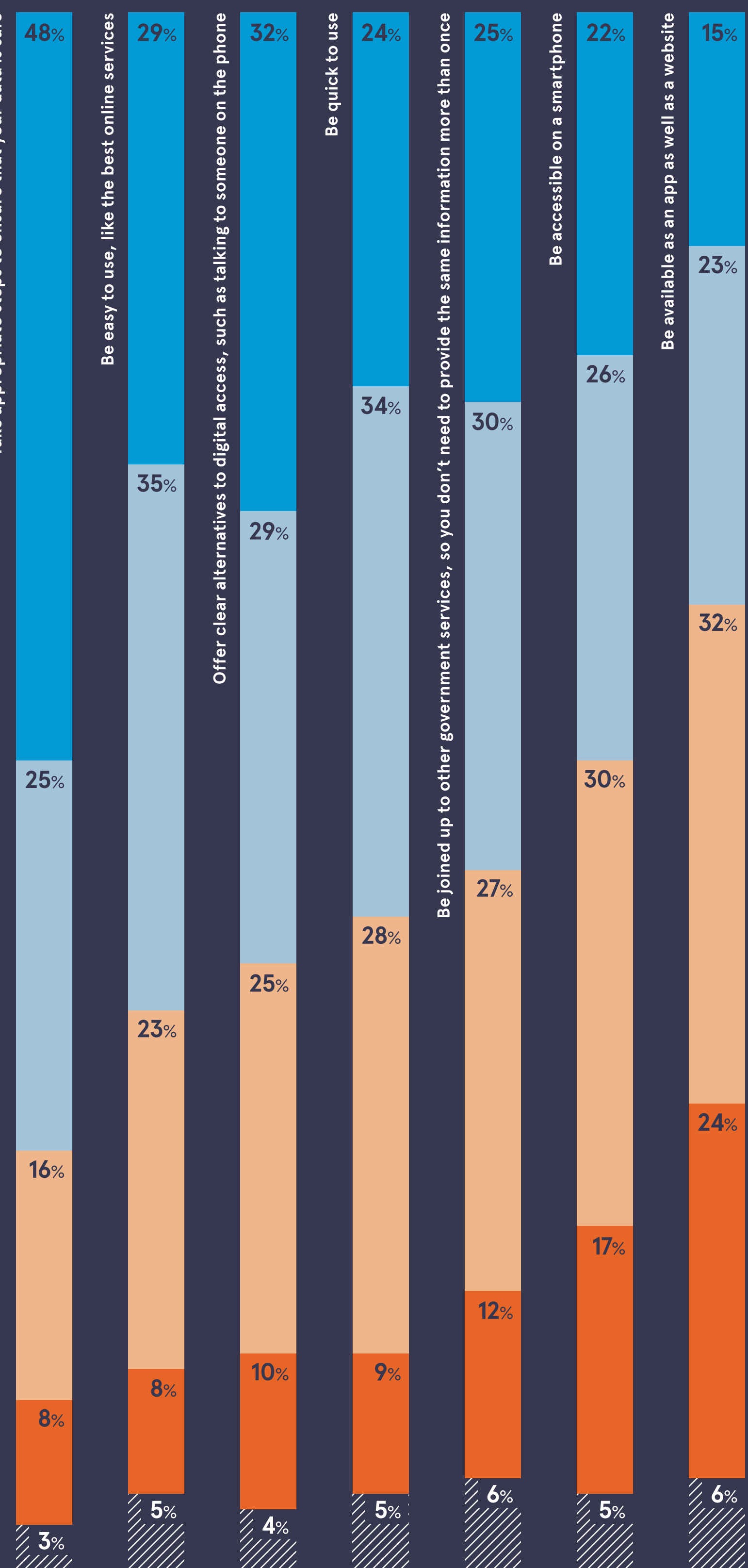
Percentage of citiz






## RITIES FOR DIGITAL SERVICES

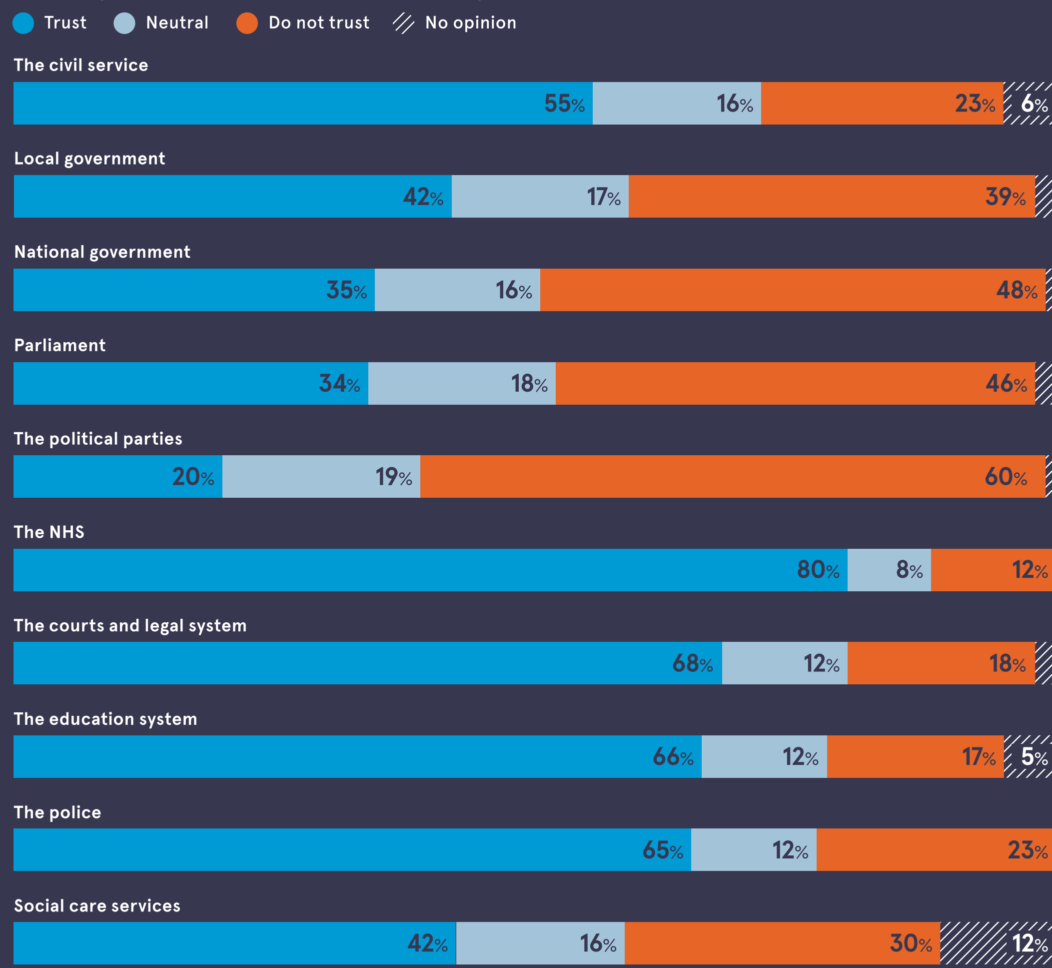
ens who feel that the following factors are important or unimportant




Deloitte, 2022

## LEVELS OF TRUST IN UK PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES

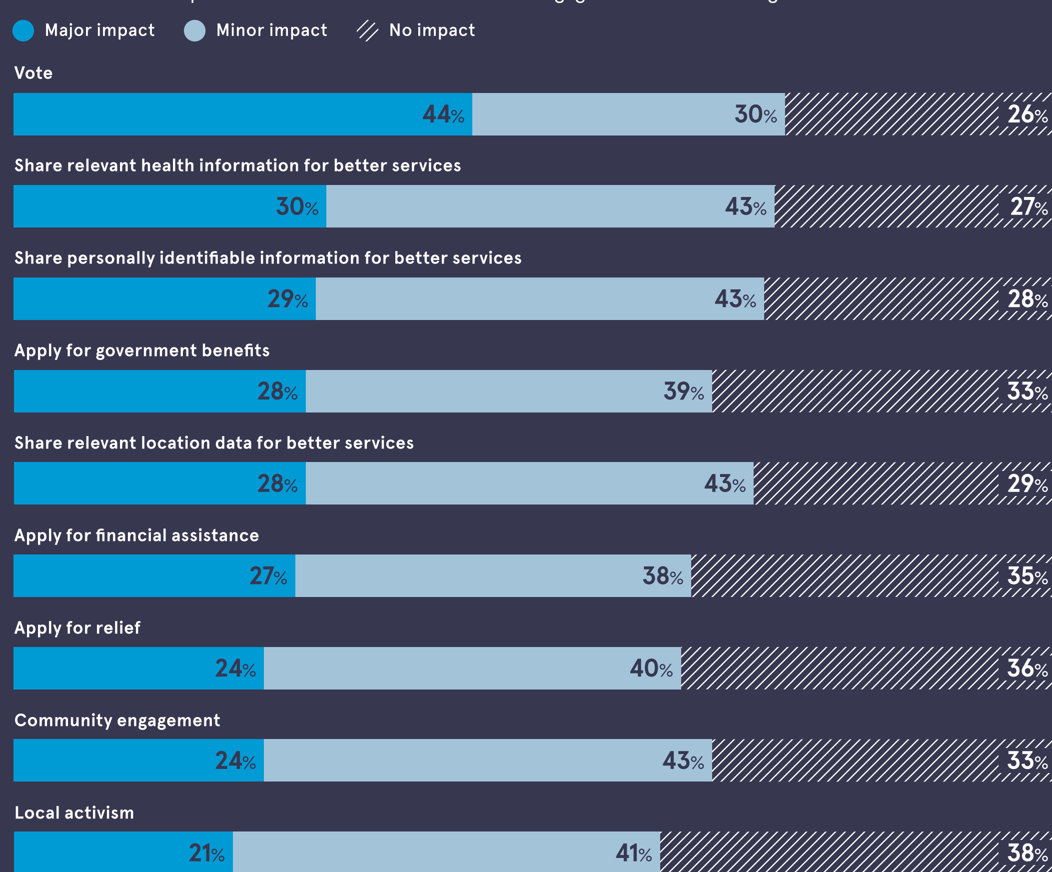
Percentage of respondents who fall into each category, with trust measured on a scale of one to 10




ONS, 2022

## IMPACT OF TRUST ON CITIZEN BEHAVIOUR GLOBALLY

Extent to which respondents feel that trust affects their engagment in the following services and activities




Salesforce, 2022





TECHNOLOGY

# Smarter working: time to embrace automation

Where should the public sector start when looking to automate complex manual processes and routine tasks? And what are the pitfalls?

Christine Horton

With the government facing several barriers to transformation, including skills gaps, a funding crunch and a need to do more with less, process automation could be a godsend – if implemented correctly. For that, public sector organisations must identify where automation would help them to achieve their aims.

The first step for leaders is to pinpoint complex manual processes and routine tasks that would be better undertaken by a machine.

Lianne Anderton is delivery lead of the Intelligent Automation Garage (IAG) at DWP Digital, which delivers services for the Department for Work and Pensions. The IAG uses agile working methods and design-led practices across a range of technologies, including robotic process automation (RPA) and chatbots, machine learning and deep learning.

Anderton says that before setting out on an automation project there are two qualifying questions. Is the process of high value to the organisation (owing to the time taken or cost to process) or is there value in the outcome to citizens or the organisation, or both? Could an automation solution be applied and bring a return on investment within the year? In essence, she says, the solutions that the IAG develops fall into the category of "problems that are worth solving".

Anderton continues: "These two simple criteria have meant that the work the IAG does is rooted in realising value quickly and has brought innovative solutions that can scale up to the size of the DWP. This is how a comparatively small team has helped to save millions of pounds of taxpayers' money, freed up hundreds of thousands of agent hours to spend on more meaningful decision-making work and created a better experience for the people who need the DWP's help. And all in the most sustainable way possible."

Decision-making takes up a huge chunk of DWP agents' time. This means evaluating evidence; understanding complex legislation and policy; and knowing how to apply that to an individual's life, usually at a point when they are experiencing a crisis or some kind of hardship.

"Automation can do the simpler, mundane elements of a process, such as gathering information, digital filing and transcribing documents, which leaves more time for agents to dedicate to making those decisions. It can also create a more flexible workforce, as teams have the potential to be better used or redeployed where there is a more immediate need," Anderton explains.

For example, budgeting loans are available to people in crisis. The demand for these always spikes in the run-up to Christmas. Originally, issuing them was a high-volume, highly manual paper-based process that lasted 36 days from application to money transfer. This often meant that applicants felt the need to contact the DWP to chase up their applications. The IAG fully automated the service in 12 weeks. Applications are now made online, progress updates are sent via SMS and the funds are paid into a citizen's bank within five days – seven times faster than the original process.

The NHS has also been leading the charge in process automation. Reuben Morgan is team manager at Medicines Homecare. He has led a project, funded by the Welsh government, that uses RPA to clinically check prescriptions for Swansea Bay University Health Board.

"We needed to make sure that we mirrored the role of the pharmacist," Morgan says. "Because then we can release the pharmacist from this rather monotonous, repetitive process and give them more time instead at the cutting edge of pharmacy. There, they can make those serious clinical interventions and add lots of value to a patient's treatment, rather than checking a routine repeat prescription."

The success of the project led the organisation to look at other manual and time-consuming processes that could be automated, such as invoicing. The key, Morgan says, is to always engage with the workforce from day one to show them the value that they could provide and where they can best apply their skills.

"We have a human workforce and a robotic workforce that are working hand in hand to make sure we can provide the best possible service for our patients," he adds.

Elsewhere, the University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust is still in the early stages of its automation journey. It is already clear that small steps add up to a big difference, according to William Monaghan, its executive chief digital information officer.

"Replacing simple processes is a big one," he says. "As one example, last week we wrote some code to pull workforce information from one system into another. That process now runs 365 days a year and doesn't need anyone to intervene. So we are getting better information and the person who was doing it manually gets more than 260 hours back a year to do more meaningful work. And we never build up a backlog."

> **Start small. Make sure you do as much research as you can and speak to people who have implemented automation**

Monaghan adds that his organisation is also starting to use automation in research, pulling data from multiple systems to allow research specialists to analyse it faster and more easily.

There are, of course, challenges, to implementing any kind of technology modernisation programme and process automation is no different.

Consultant David Biden has worked on many automation projects across the public sector. He says it's common to run successful proof-of-value tests, but they don't lead to the full roll-out, sometimes because of problems with scaling up the solution. More often projects hit a wall with trade unions, which are concerned about the impact of process automation on jobs.

Working on an automation project for University College London, Biden says the union's concern was that people would be replaced with robots and that couldn't be allowed to happen. "And that was a battle," he says.

He adds that the 'people will lose their jobs' mantra has been a common one across almost all RPA projects on which he has worked. Another example is the Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency, where concerns have been triggered about job losses across many digital projects, not just automation. So despite potential huge cost savings, the prospect of job losses can halt plans for automation.

But the public sector can still investigate automating aspects of people's jobs and train those people to take on other roles across the organisation, according to Biden.

That would mean "reducing the cost of onboarding someone, which is a lot in the public sector. We are going to train someone up to advance their career and then we're going to also remove the cost from this HR department of processing these timesheets. That's the way that automation should work in the public sector," he says.

> **We're getting better information and the person who was doing it manually gets more than 260 hours back a year to do more meaningful work**

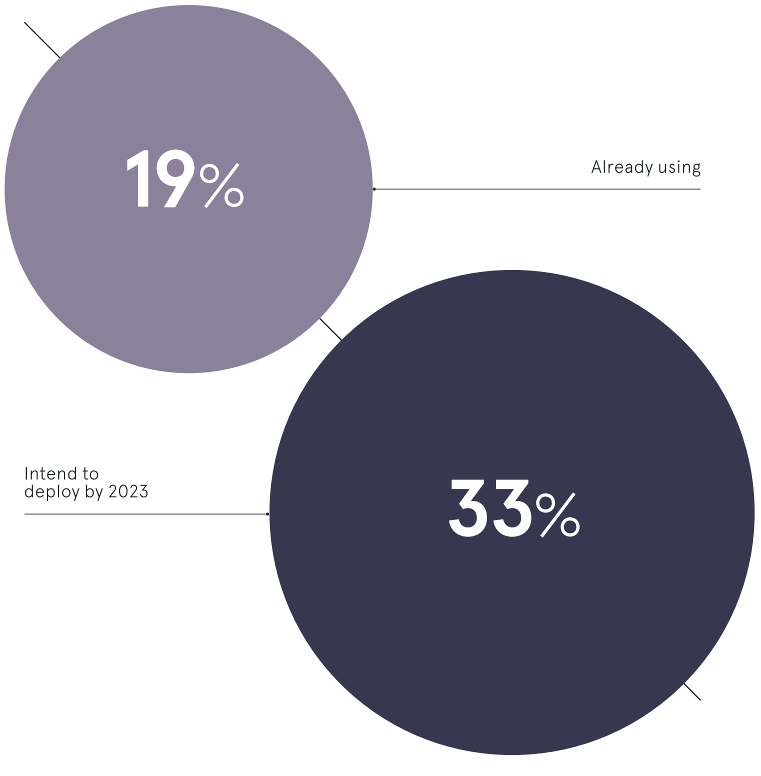
When it comes to how public sector leaders can identify automation opportunities, Morgan has this advice: "Start small. Seek advice from health providers and the public sector, but also see what the private sector is doing. Ensure that you do as much research as you can and speak to people who have implemented automation. Also, get IT involved and they can highlight time delays, any access and firewall issues, and user settings. And make sure that you get your paymasters on board really early."

He adds that these decisions should involve the people who are in fact doing that job.

"I couldn't implement an invoice-processing automation piece without the assistance of the invoice-processing staff, because you have to mirror the exact process," Morgan says. "They know how those invoices come in and what the pitfalls are, and how many steps to take. If you involve all members of staff, you get greater buy-in – and that means you have a greater chance of success." ●

**GOVERNMENTS ARE INCREASING INVESTMENT IN RPA**

Government respondents' usage of robotic process automation, 2021




Gartner, 2021

Commercial feature

# Q&A

# Rapidly delivering energy support schemes

A conversation with **Karl Hoods**, chief digital and information officer at the Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero

The government has introduced several support schemes to help citizens and businesses manage rising energy costs, which the Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero (formerly known as Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) has designed and implemented. Karl Hoods talks us through the objectives and challenges – and how Salesforce provided vital support.



**Q What were the main objectives you needed to achieve with the energy support schemes?**

**A** The primary aim was to provide a set of energy support packages across domestic and non-domestic audiences. We needed to come up with something which would be robust from a policy perspective and have maximum impact, which the technology support team would then deliver. And we had to act swiftly because it was imperative to get the money to people as quickly as possible.

To achieve this, we needed a set of services and solutions that would enable us to deliver at pace, and a set of partners that could work across the digital team, policy team and third parties.

**Q What audiences did you need to reach? And how did you ensure maximum engagement with the support available?**

**A** It was a mixture of public-facing [audiences] – citizens and businesses – [and involved] application services, [as well as] integration with local authorities, third-party call centres and payment providers. So the ecosystem across the various schemes was quite broad.

Our primary focus is always to take a user-centred design approach to anything that we build. Whether it's something we're delivering internally or externally, it has to be as easy and as simple to use as possible.

We needed to make sure that we'd done adequate user research within the timeframes available, so the UTE (usability test environment) team talked to care homes, boat [communities], farming communities, local authorities, call centres [and other stakeholders] as part of our discovery activity. We then tested out ideas with those audiences, aligned with the policy objectives.

> **Issues that have come up have been resolved quickly, together – and that's something we always look for in our strategic partners**

**Q Why did you decide to work with Salesforce on this project?**

**A** We felt that they were able to move at the pace that we needed for this particular scheme. [But] first and foremost, it's about whether we have a partner that as is interested in the end outcomes as we are, and is willing to engage and commit resources to achieve them. We found that from the first conversation with them [Salesforce], that was very much the case.

They also offered broad knowledge from work they've done across other public sector organisations, as well as in other sectors. [That's something we value], as learning from other sectors is a really important tenet in our strategy.

As a cloud-first, platform-based service provider internally, we also wanted to make sure that we were playing to our strengths by using a cloud-based platform-as-a-service.

**Q Did Salesforce's low-code and automation capabilities help you to move at speed?**

**A** Salesforce covers all the typical usage scenarios that you would want to exploit with a low-code platform: speed of development; integration with third-party systems; being able to iterate with our user base; and particularly because we are moving at pace, being able to deploy things quickly.

With limited timeframes, we also wanted to make sure that we were automating the end-to-end process: whether that's ingesting data, providing postcode look-ups, reference data, etc. We were keen to make sure that we weren't introducing unnecessary delays by having manual processes.

**Q How easy has it been to resolve the issues and challenges that inevitably arise when delivering a major project in a short time frame?**

**A** Issues that have come up have been resolved quickly, together – and that's something we always look for in our strategic partners. Can we have an open set of conversations? Is there constructive challenging on both sides? We feel that we've had that [experience], and both Salesforce and their partners have come to the table with solutions, suggestions and opportunities.

**Q How might the outcomes of this project influence future ones?**

**A** A platform-based approach is a core pillar of our strategy. We're not hand-building solutions to meet one specific policy objective; we're always trying to take a step back and ask how we can productise what we're doing, so that we can either reuse the entire platform or entire components. It makes future deployments quicker, and it means that we're able to respond faster to internal pressures and demands, as well as service external needs.

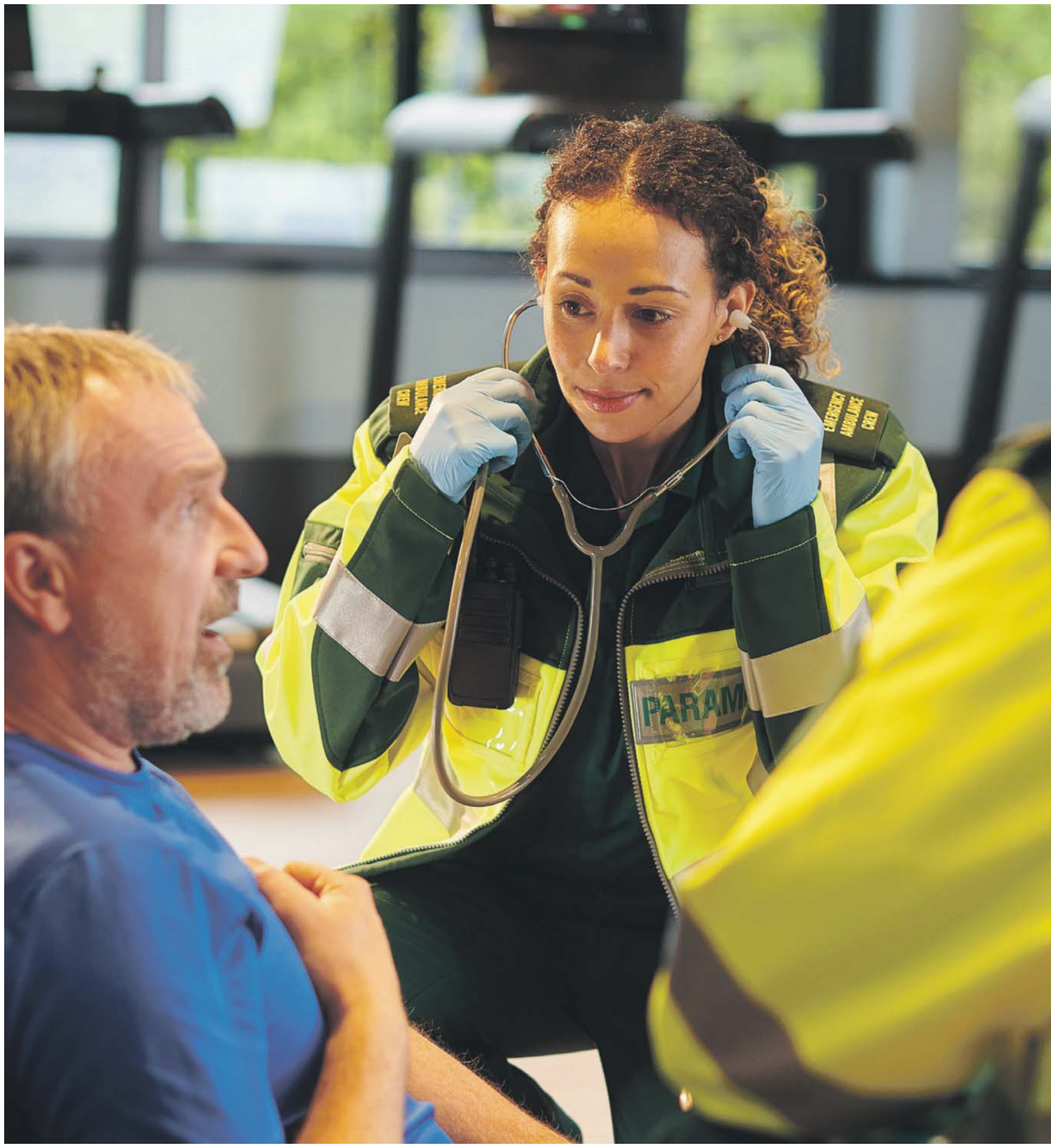
**Find out more at salesforce.com/uk/publicsector**

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Commercial feature

# Could CRM software help solve NHS engagement issues?

CRM software has helped businesses in every sector maximise employee and customer satisfaction. Now, the same tech could help the NHS to attract and retain talent and provide world-class patient care



The NHS is facing the biggest battle in its nearly 75-year history. Staff vacancies have hit a record high of 133,000, a figure that represents 10% of its total workforce. Data from NHS Digital shows that 15,000 nurses resigned from the health service in the year to March 2022, with 4,000 citing work-life balance as their reason for leaving. It's not just nurses quitting. In England last year, 3,229 doctors resigned from the NHS, with 341 citing burnout.

Patients are suffering as demand for NHS services outstrips supply. The number of people waiting for treatment stands at 7.21 million. Three million of those patients have been waiting over 18 weeks and 379,245 have been waiting over a year. This isn't a new issue, either. Staffing issues meant there were 4.4 million people on waiting lists in early 2020, before Covid arrived in the UK and resulted in the cancellation of 2.4 million operations.

Patients are turning to private healthcare to jump the queue. More than 250,000 people paid for private treatment last year – 29% more than in 2019 – and that figure excludes those who already have private insurance. This has relieved some of the NHS's backlog but worsened its recruitment problem. The NHS and private sector both recruit from the same pool of talent, meaning there is fierce competition to attract and retain the best staff. In March, it was reported that private healthcare companies were offering NHS doctors bonuses of up to £5,000 to recruit colleagues for commercial healthcare providers.

Healthcare staff who work in the private sector are typically paid significantly more than NHS workers. Between August and October last year, private pay increased by an average of 6.9%. In contrast, public pay rose by an average of just 2.7% at a time when inflation is at 10%. The NHS also can't compete with more manageable workloads and better work-life balance offered by private healthcare providers. So, what can it do to improve the employee experience, win the war for talent and give patients a world-class service?

Cloud-based software giant Salesforce built several digital tools for the NHS to tackle the Covid-19 crisis. Now, the company believes it can help the world's fifth-largest employer to modernise and boost its recruitment by transforming how it collects and harnesses data. "We want to develop state-of-the-art digital communications for the NHS," says Salesforce's chief health officer, Simon Eccles, who was previously chief clinical information officer at the NHS. "That includes communicating with patients about their clinical journey and with staff about their working environment, conditions, pay and job applications."

**2.7%**

growth in public sector pay between August and October 2022

**6.9%**

growth in private sector pay between August and October 2022

ONS, 2022



**Simon Eccles**
Chief medical officer at Salesforce

> **The NHS needs to get much better at understanding an individuals' communication preferences**

Salesforce believes customer relationship management (CRM) software has transformed the way businesses across every industry communicate with their customers and staff by collecting and analysing data to create streamlined, personalised and automated processes that save time and money and generate income. Eccles believes an NHS-specific CRM could optimise its recruitment. The UK government wants to recruit 50,000 more nurses by 2024/25 and rapidly increase the pace of recruitment across all roles and professions – but its current system isn't working. "We need to make it much easier for people to apply for roles in the NHS," says Eccles. "The NHS needs a tool that can automate the process as much as possible and remember if you've applied for another NHS role previously. At the moment, there are too many steps and communication is poor during the application process, which is hampering recruitment."

Bureaucracy is also a hindrance for staff once they've been hired. Doctors and nurses who are embarking on their first roles in the NHS are often on rotation, meaning they change departments or hospitals on a frequent basis. "There is a huge slew of paperwork for doctors and nurses to complete," Eccles explains. "If they get this wrong, they face not being paid correctly or having their annual leave recorded properly. The last thing a doctor or nurse needs after a 12-hour shift is to spend hours on the phone querying a mistake with their pay."

Saleforce believes the solution could be a personalised dashboard with a simple interface that records the individual records of every employee. This would include qualifications, career records and references to reduce paperwork and ensure staff can apply for new roles at speed. The same dashboard would also give staff visibility of their weekly and monthly rota. Displays would be individual to each employee, making it easier for management to optimise workforce planning. "We can build simple tools to ensure clinical safety in the workplace," says Eccles. "These would make it easy to view staff availability and plot the right mix of staff with the right mix of skills each shift – we don't do that at present."

During the pandemic, Eccles says the NHS underwent "between five and 10 years' worth of digital transformation" to implement remote working solutions for staff and to enable patients to access consultations online. But it still lags behind businesses in other sectors, which have a granular understanding of how to communicate with different types of customers thanks to their use of data-rich CRM tools. "The NHS needs to get much better at understanding an individuals' communication preferences," says Eccles. "But digital communication isn't the answer to everything – roughly 20% of the UK population doesn't own a smartphone – so we need to work out what different demographics want at different stages of the patient journey."

Preferences could include simple options such as receiving appointment invitations or confirmation via



phone, letter, email, text message or via an app. Automated translation tools could also provide clearer communication with patients with limited English language skills. Salesforce's CRM software would enable the NHS to store people's preferences in one place and communicate appointments via patients' preferred methods automatically, rather than offering millions of people a blanket solution that doesn't fit their needs.

Understanding and recording patients' preferred mode of treatment is also key to optimising patient care. In London, the majority of new sexual health infections are now diagnosed online. Remote solutions are also the preferred option for early mental health support, where people often feel more comfortable discussing issues from home. Offering a mix of in-person and remote solutions is another opportunity to enhance NHS services. Virtual fracture clinics offer a convenient alternative for patients who have attended hospital with a bone, joint or muscle injury and struggle to attend follow-up appointments around work or childcare.

At the same time, the NHS must also upgrade its traditional communication methods. "Ringing up an NHS switchboard to change the time of an appointment, find out test results or even contact another department as a member of staff can be a long process," says Eccles. Salesforce works closely with businesses to deliver CRM solutions that underpin call centres. By helping to reduce the number of people who need to pick up the phone, minimise call times for those that do and improve the number of times people find out the answers they need when calling, patient satisfaction can be significantly improved.

The NHS has much work to do to improve employee and patient engagement and provide a level of service that can compete with the private sector and attract and retain the best staff in the long term. But CRM software provides an opportunity to transform the NHS into a modern and personalised service. One capable of delivering world-class health interventions that boost the population's health, save lives and secure the future of public healthcare.

**Find out more at salesforce.com/uk/public-health**

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# Lessons from New Zealand's digital healthcare revolution

New Zealand's healthcare system has used cloud CRM software to transform the way it manages the health of its population at scale

Weeks before the first cases of Covid-19 arrived on the shores of New Zealand in February 2020, the country's healthcare system began a rapid digital transformation that has boosted citizen engagement and productivity, and generated cost savings. Its investment in digital solutions could now provide a template for the modernisation of the NHS.

New Zealand's Ministry of Health initially developed a bowel screening system on the Salesforce CRM platform as part of its National Bowel Screening Programme. It enabled patients to sign up to receive a test in the post using an online portal built on Experience Cloud, where they entered their personal details and relevant health history.

This data, along with their test results, was then stored on an individual profile on an online community portal called Service Cloud. This portal enabled the ministry to follow up on cases, share results, and invite patients in for additional screening services like a colonoscopy via a simple app.

This workflow provided a template for the country's Covid-19 contact tracing system, which was built on the same platform. The first version went live in just 10 days and provided the government, healthcare staff and patients with the tools to communicate and keep the spread of the virus under control, while ensuring data security. "We worked with our regional partners, co-designing a system that not only met the changing needs of frontline staff, but also included the type of security controls that are required of a national programme that is dealing with personal data," said Michael Dreyer, group manager, national digital services, Ministry of Health.

The results were staggering. In August 2020, the New England Journal of Medicine (along with numerous other publications) highlighted New Zealand as the premier example of how to eliminate Covid-19 transmission after the country reached a zero case count while the rest of the world was wrestling with wave after wave of cases. The system that was put in place put the patient and provider at the centre, moving the needle in vaccine uptake and proving that when citizens have a degree of control and involvement participation goes up.

The success provided the evidence and incentive to modernise the rest of New Zealand's healthcare system. "The pandemic created heightened expectations amongst citizens and staff of what healthcare should look like, because there was now an app for Covid symptoms and later vaccinations," says Louise Ashbrook, vice-president of public sector health at Salesforce. "People involved in managing the outbreak wanted streamlined workflows, and patients expected personalised, engaging experiences."

Since then, additional programmes have been built on Salesforce to manage the health of New Zealand's population. These include the Aotearoa Immunisations Register, a Communicable Disease Management Platform, a system to manage adverse effects of medicines, and a system for managing health sector agreements and payments.



**Louise Ashbrook**
VP of public health at Salesforce

This personalised approach could now be adopted by the NHS. "The needs of people living in London, which is well served in terms of healthcare services, are very different to people living in rural areas," Ashbrook explains. "We need data to build a picture of what those needs are, so we can communicate with patients and deliver services more effectively. This could mean booking appointments via an app rather than letters or offering virtual care rather than hospital appointments."

Doctors could also be relieved of unnecessary paperwork if patient data is collected once and stored in a singular system to avoid patients being asked for the same information, which eats into appointment slots. NHS backlogs may be slashed with the help of CRM software. Almost a million women in the UK missed mammogram appointments because of the pandemic, but keeping a register of those who are available to come in at short notice and take up unused slots could accelerate this clear-up.

This vision of a modernised NHS could soon become a reality. "We're really keen to show the healthcare sector what's possible and the timeframes," says Ashbrook. "A lot of the software systems that the NHS may need have already been pre-built, so we're able to configure them for the needs of the NHS and get them live really quickly."

If they can, then NHS staff and patients can look forward to a healthier future.

TRANSFORMATION

# All on board: overcoming legacy attitudes and technology

It can sometimes be easier to effect transformational changes than it might at first appear. But where to start?

Andy Jones

It isn't easy dragging old technology and attitudes into a new era, particularly when it involves partners who may not share your vision. In 2014, for instance, the Ministry of Defence awarded General Dynamics a £5.5bn contract for 589 armoured vehicles, with delivery due to start three years later. But problems arose and the order has yet to be fulfilled.

Anyone familiar with working across many departments will nod in recognition at how an original agreed vision can become lost in the realities of the situation.

When the Oldham Partnership committed to making the Greater Manchester borough "a place of ambition" it started at grass-roots level, rather than the top. This helped to make challenges more visible to decision-makers. This in turn energised them to use their position to help solve problems. These were the findings of a report by innovation agency Nesta (formerly the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts), which designs solutions for social good. Nesta noted that front-line staff in Oldham Council identified issues, recording how many times each one occurred and its impact. These so-called system conditions were then brought to the attention of those who could make the changes needed. The programme resulted in three elements of agreed focus: "thriving communities, an inclusive economy and cooperative services".

The Covid crisis forced local authorities to quickly find new ways to deliver public services at a distance. A study by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation (CDEI) shows that at the onset of the pandemic there were skills gaps, budgetary constraints, poor technical practices and problems with legacy technology. There was also a lack of clarity on what personal information could be shared with other authorities.

But, faced with the crisis, many local authorities switched from using old methods and focused on finding new solutions and working collaboratively. Argyll and Bute Council's trial of drone technology delivered vital medical supplies across its islands, as well as using mapping tools to support social distancing. Hackney London Borough Council used predictive analytics to help identify people who were particularly vulnerable to Covid-19.

> Light-speed change occurs only when everyone is working with legacy systems, rather than against them

To help support vulnerable children when the schools were closed, a cross-borough agreement was set up between London boroughs to use cloud software, enabling them to share details of children in receipt of free school meals. According to the CDEI, one participant described the change as "equivalent to taking a leap two years forward".

But this kind of light-speed change occurs only when working with legacy systems, rather than against them.

Doccla virtual wards provide a successful case of marrying legacy attitudes and technology to the latest software, so that NHS patients can be monitored at home instead of on a ward. Doccla, a healthtech firm founded in 2019, addressed potential NHS delivery pain points early on, including managing devices, onboarding users, monitoring compliance and providing proper support. The system can refer patients using only their NHS number or directly out of the NHS records system. Dag Larsson, co-founder and CEO of Doccla, says the implementation is fast and streamlined to minimise the work for NHS partners.

"And it got us to the point where we are delivering an end-to-end service faster," he adds.

Most users tend to be slow to embrace the new, especially when there are barriers to change such as the need to evaluate options, gain approval at a senior level or wait for legacy contracts to run their course, Larsson notes.

"You can't afford to throw out the cumulative result of years of investment each time there's a new development to exploit – a development that will become tomorrow's legacy problem," he argues. "The trick is to embrace openness. If a key supplier takes a year to manage orders or erects commercial barriers to prevent third parties from integrating, you don't have an open system."

One of the breakthroughs for Doccla was identifying "champions" among staff and patients within the structures that were changing.

"That could be someone who is already won over by digital transformation or someone who is bearing the brunt of the workload from the pain of legacy technology," Larsson explains. "These figures have the power to accelerate the process of buy-in across the organisation. We let the stories speak for themselves."

One champion was a patient – Brian Smith, 80 – who spent two weeks in a ward in Stevenage after a heart attack and whose condition improved once he returned home. He and his wife were lent equipment to provide him with oxygen at home and a tablet computer to record his observations. Smith's success story helped to increase take-up. His doctor, Elizabeth Kendrick, hopes the service will increase from treating 90 patients in Stevenage to 200 by the end of the year.

"Hospital is the right place for some people, but others can decondition rapidly," she says. "It's also obviously cheaper to look after someone in their own home because we don't need to deploy a nurse to check somebody's observations."

Clarity of vision is also key and lessons can be learnt from how businesses approach innovation. Helen Ashton helped fashion giant Asos through various transformations as CFO before leading her own consultancy, Shape Beyond. She says the private sector overcomes legacy attitudes quickly by outlining clear goals in a style that front-line staff embrace. From there, leaders build trust by sharing outcomes – good and bad – and acting on these.

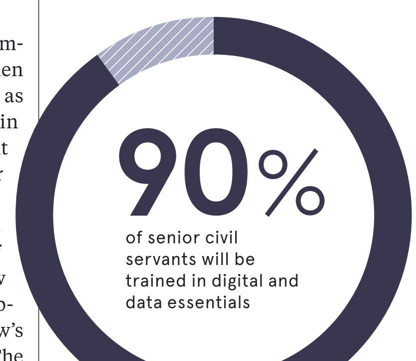
"Gather feedback, listen and – critically – act," Ashton stresses. "This should take place via different channels and media, start early and finish way after the transformation has finished. The amount of support that people require to embed change is always underestimated and it is definitely a key reason why programmes struggle."

When transformation is vital, as in a public health crisis, change can happen at pace. But public sector organisations can help to maintain this momentum by listening to everyone, developing a clear vision for change and building strategically on what they have. ●



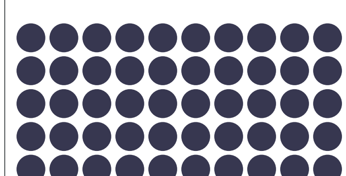
Maria Symchych-Navrotska via iStock

By 2025...




£8bn

of further investment in digital, data and technology transformation will be made



50

of the most frequently used digital government services will be upgraded

Central Digital and Data Office, 2022

ACCESS MANAGEMENT

# Checks and balances: Westminster's verification challenge

The government is aiming to make it easier for citizens to access a range of key public services, but it has a delicate path to tread with its new system

**Rich McEachran**



stockcam via iStock

Expensive, intrusive and unjustified – these are just some of the words that civil liberties groups and other critics have used to describe the UK's government's plans to introduce digital identity systems in the recent past. It's hoping to avoid such a response after its replacement of the troubled Gov.uk Verify online ID verification platform with a system called One Login. Dozens of departments are expected to migrate to it.

The Government Digital Service (GDS) claims that the incoming tech will provide "a fast and simple way for people to access government services, while maintaining stringent safeguards on user data and protecting against fraud".

In a world that's becoming ever more connected, digital IDs make sense. Research published by McKinsey estimates that their use in the UK could unlock economic value equating to 3% of GDP in 2030.

Plenty is riding on the success of One Login too. If large numbers of people were to have trouble accessing the key services beyond this new gateway, there would be serious ramifications, notes Dan Prince, professor in security and protection science at Lancaster University.

"This wouldn't be as simple as being unable to log into your social media account and view your favourite celebrity's posts," he says. "In this case, you might not be able to receive your benefits, say, or renew your passport."

He suggests that, although the system should run smoothly for most users, merging government service log-ins will introduce a single point of failure. If anything were to go wrong, the GDS would need to throw resources at getting the problem fixed quickly.

"Failures in a digital ID system, along with a poor, slow response, increase the likelihood that the system will become untrusted," Prince warns. "That could damage public trust in the government and wider digital services."

People seem largely receptive to the idea of a digital ID system. Research published in March by the Entrust Cybersecurity Institute revealed that 70% of the 1,450 consumers it had surveyed would probably "use an electronic form of government-issued ID if one were available". Their most cited perceived benefit of doing so was an increase in convenience. These respondents deemed sharing their personal data to be an acceptable trade-off for such a gain.

Westminster does seem to be taking concerns about data privacy seriously. At the start of this year, the Cabinet Office held a two-month public consultation to determine whether departments can improve how they use the data they hold to help people prove their identities online. At the time of writing, the government still hasn't finished analysing the responses.

The GDS has stressed that it will continue to comply with the data protection legislation and guidance provided by the Information Commissioner's Office. In particular, it will uphold the principle of data minimisation, as set out in the Data Protection Act 2018. This requires data controllers to limit the collection of personal information to the smallest amount required to verify a person's identity.

> **Failures in a digital ID system, along with a poor, slow response, increase the likelihood that the system will become untrusted**

Dr Felipe Romero-Moreno, principal lecturer at Hertfordshire Law School, applauds "the government's decision to take a 'data protection by design and default' approach". In effect, this means that it is "considering privacy issues and safeguarding individual rights up front", but there are caveats.

He explains: "The government must lay down clear responsibilities for verification organisations and differentiate between data controllers and data processors. People must always be able to know who is processing their data, when they're doing it and why."

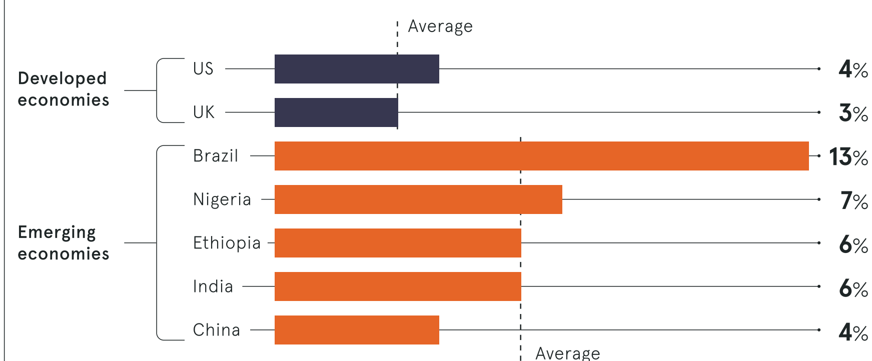
Romero-Moreno adds that, if One Login is to prove fit for purpose, the government must ensure that the many British citizens who can't or won't access digital ID systems are not put at a serious disadvantage (see the article on page 4).

Prince agrees, noting that "the key thing to remember is that identity shouldn't be a digital-only concept. The use of digital technologies reduces friction between systems and makes things more efficient, but the ID system needs to embody a process that can be run without digital technology."

Research published by Ofcom in 2021 estimated that between 1.3 million and 1.8 million UK households did not have home internet access. Older people are particularly likely to be digitally excluded. It's vital that the government makes it easier for these "non-digital natives to use physical processes to identify themselves in physical locations", Prince argues. While this might not be as efficient as online verification, it should provide fair and equal access to government services and ensure that the UK's digital transformation is inclusive.

**DIGITAL ID ADOPTION COULD UNLOCK ECONOMIC VALUE**

Projected growth in economic value from high levels of digital ID adoption in selected nations by 2030




McKinsey, 2019

The government at least acknowledges the need to retain alternative gateways to essential public services. The GDS has stressed that One Login "is not about replacing existing offline and face-to-face routes, which we know some users need".

The government has also made it clear that One Login is not "about the creation of an ID card".

The idea of storing individual public records on personal devices was talked up recently by Sir Tony Blair and his old opponent across the despatch box, Lord Hague. In a report published in February, the pair argued that it was "illogical" not to make such records as easily accessible as airline tickets, banking details and vaccine statuses. Number 10 rejected their calls.

Regardless of whether the UK eventually adopts digital ID cards, the government must remember that any such system has to put citizens first, says Romero-Moreno.

"The right to personal identity is a human right enshrined in international law. It's closely connected with personality rights (the right to one's voice, name, image and so on) and the right to life, privacy and freedom of expression," he says. "It is therefore crucial that the government refrains from adopting a narrow meaning of personal identity and implements its verification system in a human rights-compliant way." ●

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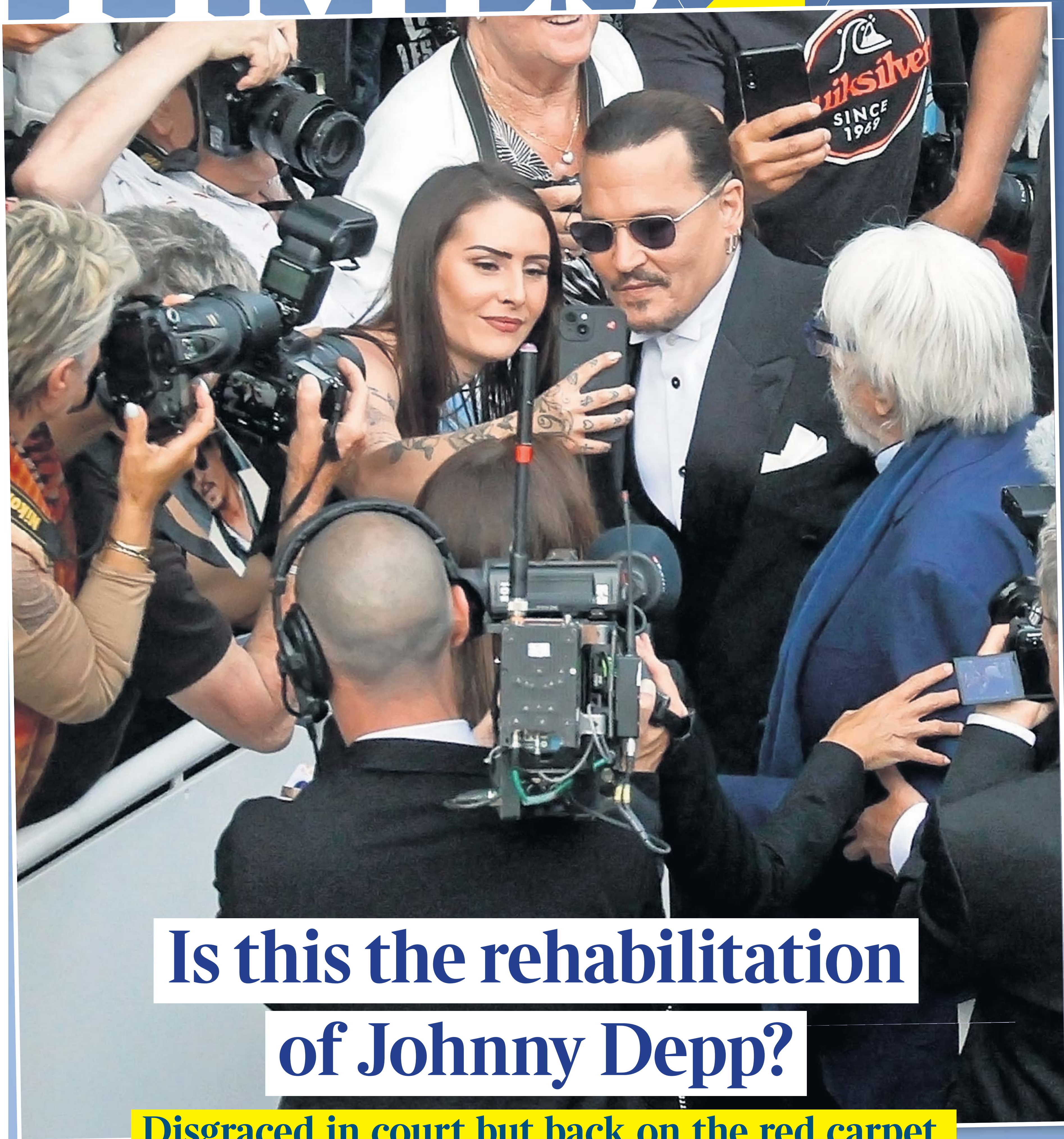
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# Is this the rehabilitation of Johnny Depp?

**Disgraced in court but back on the red carpet, the actor is looking to reboot his career**

# They want us to return to family values, but whose do they mean?

## Deborah Ross



In a speech at the National Conservatism conference this week the MP Danny Kruger said he wanted an end to "the narcissism of the me generation" and a return to our old friend "family values". I was pleased to hear it because I'm quite well-off for "family values". I have 12. I did have 11 but then I found one I'd forgotten about at the back of a drawer, so that was a good day. I say "well-off" but, of course, realise that it's all comparative and I'll probably never have as many as (Bring Back) Boris Johnson, who is rolling in them, so much so that he can't limit them to just the one family. I hope that if I ever have such a surplus I will generously spread them around too. It behoves one to do so if one is to counteract "the narcissism of the me generation" and set an example.



Johnson is (typically) vague about these matters, but it's generally thought that he has about 382. You can't be a devoted husband and father to just the one family with that many. It wouldn't work. You couldn't make it down to breakfast without tripping over a bundle of them at the top of the stairs. I also feel sorry for all those Tory MPs done for sexual misconduct in recent years (and since for ever). Is it their fault that they can't keep all their family values in their trousers, when they've been blessed with such riches?

Some say, I know, that an appeal to "family values" is the last resort of the morally bereft, a neat way of demonising swathes of people — gays, single parents, the divorced and separated, the childless, mothers who work — and putting all ills at their feet while offering a distraction from the fact that, for example, few mothers today can afford to not have a job. But let's not talk about property prices, mortgage rates, rental rates, energy prices, the sky-high cost of groceries (etc) when we can blame a "decline in family values". To be clear, I don't hold with any of that. I think if we all believe, like Kruger, that the "normative family" is "the only possible basis for a safe and successful society", and act accordingly, then we'll all be able to get an appointment with our GP by this time tomorrow, for instance.

And corporations will stop pumping shit into our waterways. And the Royal Mail will be forced to quit thinking about their shareholders and actually deliver letters, for a change.

Can you see why all this is important now? How so much could be changed if only you had the gumption to stay with that spouse you hate? Or had the gumption to not let the other person in your relationship run off? Or if you decided to not be gay? How it's at the root of everything?

I admit that when the talk is of a "return to family values" I am confused as to which family, when. For one thing, the "normative family" of a wife, husband, children is a product of the industrial age and no older than the late 19th century. Is it, then, the Victorian family? When children were forced into prostitution just so a family could eat? When a wife could be beaten so long as the rod wasn't thicker than your average thumb? Is that it? Previously families were more diffuse, typically incorporating more than one generation, with extended family members helping out on all fronts. Could the pressures on the modern "normative family" explain its dramatic failure as a social unit, with nearly half of marriages ending in divorce? Families today who can afford it, aren't they purchasing that extendedness? With cleaners and au pairs and nannies and so on, to share the burden? Like, I don't know… Jacob Rees-Mogg?

I am confused, but also, let's not dwell on it because I really want letters to arrive when they should and don't want to miss another hospital appointment. Still, no big deal, since it has been rescheduled in 16 months' time. Also, if you stick at marriage, the price of butter will almost certainly go down.

## Look out, Kirstie and Phil

**If we're talking about relationships that break down, what about Holly and Phil from *This Morning*, who are said to be at each other's throats? If anyone should stay together for the sake of a stable nation, surely it's them? They say that people are now turning away from the show in droves, but it's the only time I've ever tuned in. I wanted to see if, as I had read, Holly was wearing her hair over one eye so she didn't have to look at Phil. I couldn't see it myself, but I'm not a hair-language expert. I didn't hang around for long so missed the woman who was poised to tell us how best to clean a toilet. It showed all the signs of being a good item. They'd brought a toilet on to the set and everything.**

**I can barely sleep at night for the worry. If Holly and Phil can't keep it together, what hope for the rest of us? Who will be next? Kirstie and Phil? John and Gregg? The Hairy Bikers? If the Hairy Bikers split I think that would really push me over the edge. I imagine they are sometimes tempted but they need to think: what am I hoping for? To meet someone special with whom I can be hairy all over again?**

**They would also need to think about what's best for society. Would one of their pies want to spend the week with one and the weekends with the other? In an ideal world?**

**My dream presenting couple? Vanessa Feltz and Miriam Margolyes, who both enunciate so beautifully and clearly. It's not just families we have to think about. It's the hard of hearing too.**

# Johnny Depp, the ageing comeback kid, hits Cannes

### After his libel battles with his ex-wife Amber Heard, the star is in France trying to rebuild his career, writes Ed Potton

'I lost nothing less than everything," Johnny Depp once said, with actorly understatement, of his legal battles against his ex-wife Amber Heard. Well, he seems to have recouped a chunk of those losses this week.

The 59-year-old signed a three-year $20 million contract to be the slightly waxy face of Dior Sauvage, one of the most lucrative men's fragrance deals in history, and opened the Cannes Film Festival with *Jeanne du Barry*, his first big film since *Minamata* in 2020.

"The rehabilitation of Johnny Depp continues apace," my colleague Kevin Maher writes in his three-star review of *Jeanne du Barry*, in which Depp plays King Louis XV of France. Kevin adds that Maïwenn, the French star, director and co-writer of the film, "has coaxed an impressively controlled performance from Depp, an actor whose default setting is often too busy and too much". He "produces a forlorn character of sadness and quiet regret". The film is "mature and grounded, and represents probably the best recovery vehicle that Depp is going to get".

Recovery is the operative word. In 2020 Depp lost a libel case in the UK against the publisher of The Sun after Heard, the star of *Aquaman*, testified to support the newspaper in defence of a story in which Depp was described as a "wife beater". He then won a separate libel case in the US last year, when he sued Heard for publication of similar allegations. Neither he nor Heard emerged well from the trials: on top of his alleged violence against her there was talk of a severed fingertip and a turd left on a bed.

Yet Depp's victory in America could be seen as the first step on a road that led to the Croisette. He certainly seemed to be enjoying his return to the limelight in Cannes, joking on the red carpet with his co-stars and appearing to cry inside the Lumière Theatre when they were given a seven-minute standing ovation. The latter is de rigueur at the festival but that wouldn't have mattered a jot. He could feel the love.

He could probably feel other things too. The online campaign #CannesYouNot, for example, which uses a shot of Depp over the tagline "If you support Cannes, you support predators". Total rehabilitation for Depp seems unlikely, then, although the campaign does itself no favours with its imprecision: Depp has not been accused of being a predator.

Many had been calling time on his career, but opening the biggest film festival in the world remains a significant honour. The often haughty world of French film can go gooey for big Hollywood stars — the fawning welcome that Cannes gave Tom Cruise last year is still fresh in my memory. Some see Thierry Frémaux, the director of the festival, as an obsequious maitre d', ushering Depp to a plum table and presenting him with a bottle of his best Margaux. "Monsieur Depp! So lovely to see you."

True, a story in which his Louis has an affair with a considerably younger woman — Jeanne du Barry, played by Maïwenn — may not have been an obvious redemptive choice. Wisely, though, Maïwenn opts not to include a sex scene between her and Depp. That could have been awkward.

And the 12-year age gap is at least smaller than the 22 years between Depp and Heard and the 17 years between Maïwenn and her ex-husband, the French director Luc Besson. Maïwenn and Besson met when she was 12 and he was 29, began dating when she was 15, and she gave birth to their daughter at 16. The relationship is thought to have inspired the one between Jean Reno and Natalie Portman's characters in Besson's film *Léon*.

Besson has been accused of rape and sexual misconduct against other women, which he denies — no charges have been brought — and Maïwenn has been accused of spitting in the face of Edwy Plenel, a journalist who had investigated the claims against Besson.

She isn't really the ideal person for Depp to be working with if he wants to distance himself from #MeToo stuff. Many think the French film industry goes too easy on high-profile men. In an open letter last week the French actress Adèle Haenel attacked it for protecting Roman Polanski, who was convicted of raping a 13-year-old girl in 1977, and Gérard Depardieu, who is under investigation in France for rape and is accused by multiple women of assault, all of which he denies.

COVER: BACKGRID. BELOW: GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY





**Johnny Depp with Maïwenn in his new film, Jeanne du Barry. Above: in 2017. Below: with his former wife, Amber Heard, in 2015**



Part of the reason Depp has been embraced in Cannes, surely, is that his presence guarantees global media coverage. Nor does it do any harm that he acts in French throughout *Jeanne du Barry*, even if his linguistic skills are typically Anglo-Saxon.

"He speaks French like an American speaking French," Maher writes. "He stares at the moon and, sighing at the divine mystery before him, says: 'Kell mister diveene!' But, oddly, he makes it work, as if playing someone whose uneven accent is just part of his quirky royal accoutrements."

Robbie Collin, in The Daily Telegraph, writes that Depp's French is "not too shabby, but his regal gravitas is non-existent. The powdered face, tight curls and pursed, rouged lips all scream Mrs Slocombe." (Two stars.)

We often talk about how actresses are defined by their looks, but it's striking how many reviewers mention his. In the Evening Standard Jo-Ann Titmarsh refers to "that gilded youth whose looks may have waned but whose charm here is undimmed". (Two stars.)

Meanwhile, Peter Bradshaw of The Guardian writes: "The rosebud lips of Johnny Depp in this film are pursed in a strange expression of irony, stupefied entitlement and droll, martyred awareness of the absurdity of which his royal person is the centre; a human candle starting to melt." (Three stars.)

The wick hasn't burnt down yet, though. Depp is thought to be living in London, staying at hotels and with friends. Yes, he was fired from his role as the fascist wizard Grindelwald in the *Fantastic Beasts* franchise, but that looks less catastrophic now that those films seem to have ground to a halt.

Nor are we likely to see him play Jack Sparrow in another *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie. Asked by Heard's lawyer at the US trial, "If Disney came to you with $300 million and a million alpacas, nothing on this earth would get you to go back and work with Disney on a *Pirates of the Caribbean* film?" Depp answered, "That is true." It's thought that he feels he has been harshly treated by Disney since Heard's allegations surfaced.

He may be behind the camera for his next movie, directing a biopic of the Italian artist Amedeo Modigliani. In truth, though, he has never really been away, a fixture on social media, news bulletins and a succession of documentaries about his legal battles, the latest of which, *Depp v Heard*, comes to Channel 4 this spring.

A new book, Nick Wallis's *Depp v Heard: The Unreal Story*, charts the way Depp's fans were weaponised against Heard during the trials. Heard has reportedly quit Hollywood and settled in Madrid with her two-year-old daughter, born by surrogacy. Good luck to her.

Her guitar-playing ex-husband, meanwhile, is joining Rod Stewart and Eric Clapton at the Albert Hall this month for a tribute to his friend, Jeff Beck. His third career as an artist is going pretty well too — when he put a selection of his works on sale in London last year, all 780 went within hours.

There are definite signs that the whiff around Depp, and I don't mean Dior Sauvage, could be clearing. Or is it just that we eventually get used to bad smells?

# The critic's view on the rediscovered Rembrandts

## The dazzling find raises questions of how art vanishes and what it's worth once uncovered

What luck to find a Rembrandt in the loft. Better luck yet to find two. A pair of portraits by the artist, unknown to scholars and never before on public display, have been found after 200 years in the collection of a family living in the UK. While valuing other art and effects, Henry Pettifer, international deputy chairman of old master paintings at Christie's, came across facing portraits of a husband and wife from Leiden in the Netherlands dated to 1635.

"I dared to dream," Pettifer said. Dream became discovery when the couple were authenticated as Rembrandts by the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. The 8in-high portraits will go under the hammer on July 6 at Christie's in London with an estimated value of between £5 million and £8 million. The Rijksmuseum has identified a "virtually unbroken" line of provenance — ownership — going back to the sitters, Jan Willemsz van der Pluym and Jaapgen Carels, who commissioned the portraits.



**The 1635 portraits of Jan Willemsz van der Pluym and Jaapgen Carels**

I've only seen them online and just postage-stamp sized, but they certainly have the ring of Rembrandt: the forensic, fond but unforgiving gaze, the brilliant ruffs and collars. They aren't proud paintings — Rembrandt has done bigger and bolder — but they are pleasingly intimate; not quite locket miniatures but still portraits as tender keepsakes. Their size and the sitters not being big names probably account for the relatively low estimate. The Rembrandt record stands at £20.2 million for *Portrait of a Man with Arms Akimbo*, which sold at Christie's in 2009.

But how, you may wonder, does a masterpiece, let alone two, go missing? You can lose your car keys, but your Caravaggio? Perhaps you had to leave in a hurry, perhaps your creditors came calling, perhaps the enemy's army was marching inexorably west. You can sew the family emeralds into your knickers but not the family Monet. You might have time to stash the art in the attic, knock up a false wall, artfully arrange the dust sheets so it looks like no one has been up there for years. An old retainer dies, a grandparent starts a new life as a refugee with nothing but the furs on their back. A house is occupied by the invading force or requisitioned as a military hospital or evacuated school. Shroud that sculpture, shove those pictures in the cellar! Don't you know there's a war on? No time to worry about your precious collection.

Years later, when the peace is signed and the dust has settled, no one can remember where the Botticellis are buried. Think of the extraordinary story told in Edmund de Waal's *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, with the family's collection of Japanese netsuke surviving the occupation of Vienna inside the housekeeper's mattress.

Or perhaps there's a contested will, or no will at all, or tax so punitive the family move into the gardener's cottage and let the house, uncatalogued contents and all.

There is still much that was looted by the Nazis from private homes that has never been found. When a painting does turn up decades later, it may be possible to track down a great-great-niece in Florida and reunite her with her heirloom. Restitution is about more than Benin bronzes.

In some cases a painting is stolen. It's possible that the robbers bottle the sale, the fence panics, the goods are too hot, a painting slips through the cracks. The Dutch art detective Arthur Brand has been nicknamed the "Indiana Jones of the art world" for his ability to track down stolen works from Roman coins to Van Goghs. He has told the BBC: "It's all about money. Most people are in it for the money and are just trying to make as much as they can."

> **You can lose your car keys, but your Caravaggio?**

A thief — and the dealer or collector they sell to — doesn't care about the canon or the artist's catalogue raisonné or the loss to scholarship, they care about the cash. Of course it's nice for curators to fit another piece into the artist's jigsaw, but when a lost masterpiece turns up we're all agog to know: how much?

**Laura Freeman**

**the table**

# What I learnt as the daughter of a real-life Shirley Valentine in Corfu

**After a whirlwind romance her mother was taught a new way of life in Greece — now Anastasia Miari is trying to preserve that heritage. By Helen Rumbelow**



Anastasia Miari and yiayia Maria. Right: with her own yiayia, also called Anastasia, and, top, their Mediterranean roasted vegetables

Did you ever wonder if Shirley Valentine shacked up with Costas and had a new half-Greek family on a Greek island? Or how many British women desperate to be free of recession-raddled northern cities in the early 1990s did what Shirley, of the much-loved film, did? Just how many ran away to the Greek islands, fell in love and then stayed on, to the bemusement of the powerful old matriarchs, the "yiayiades", who run the place?

This is Anastasia Miari's story: *Shirley Valentine* was released in 1989, and in 1990 Miari's mother Barbara had a baby — Miari, now 33 — with Vasilis, a Greek soldier she met on a jack-it-all-in adventure in Corfu.

"Shirley Valentine is very much my mother, it's a reference I would definitely use for her," Miari says via video link from her base in Athens, a Lancashire accent studded with Greek words like a hotpot studded with olives.





Tom Conti and Pauline Collins in Shirley Valentine. Top: Miari with her parents

"My mum trained as a hairdresser. She had enough of Blackpool and she and her twin sister were like, 'Let's get outta here.' They were working class, they weren't going to do the middle-class backpacking in India thing. They went to Greece, where my mum was working as an au pair. They tried to escape and my mum found an escape in my dad."

As such, Miari's life is Shirley Valentine: The Sequel. While she grew up running carefree in their village in the hills above a glittering cove, her mother was undertaking a tricky re-education programme, having moved in with her in-laws. When her father and grandfather were out at work, Miari watched as her mother, a restless twentysomething raised on the drab Thatcherite-era cuisine of Findus crispy pancakes, was taught to cook by Anastasia's yiayia (granny, pronounced "ya-ya"). This creased old lady in black somehow banged out exquisite meals with little more than allotment veg on a medieval-style open fire.

Most tourists are by turns charmed and intimidated by these yiayiades, sitting like black sentry posts in whitewashed doorways. They may adore their cooking, but they can't communicate that to them or replicate it themselves. Miari, however, is now our perfect intercultural guide. She has written a new cookbook, *Yiayia*, that is


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> “Growing up, it felt like half of Corfu was half-English

quite a few things: a homage to her own yiayia; an attempt to capture the secret recipes of a dozen of the best yiayia cooks in Greece; and also a kind of anthropologist’s curation. Miari’s yiayia is 87, her species nearly extinct. Was this book a race against time?

“Yes. It obviously started as a really personal thing for me: it features a lot of my yiayia’s recipes. Some of those dishes just taste of her, it’s like sitting down in her living room at her table with the glass cover and the tablecloth underneath, and she’s feeding you lentil soup with a big wedge of feta, and it’s so garlicky and punchy and full of flavour.

“Each grandma doesn’t really know how to share it, they just say, ‘Oh, lentils, onions, garlic, olive oil, bish bash bosh.’ I had to stand next to them in the kitchen and keep bugging them to understand how to get there. I’m so glad I did. And it’s important on a deeper level: food is our heritage and those grandmas are the last link. They’re the last generation that didn’t record anything, the opposite of what we do now. Once these women are gone, their recipes are gone with them. Their skills and techniques are being lost in our generation.”

Her grandmother doesn’t even use a chopping board, just cuts onions onto her hand with a “dodgy knife” bought in the 1960s. Soon, I say, there will be one last yiayia in a Greek island zoo, and tourists will come to watch her cook. “That’s so sad,” Miari says with real distress.

The word yiayia doesn’t give off the cosy vibes of “granny”, she says. The women in the book, quite a few in their nineties, are “stern, wry, a force to be reckoned with”. Some of them talk of sharing their homes with farm animals, scratching a meagre living from the land as men went off to earn. British tourists to the island were often ignorant that Greece “was a very new nation: we only came out of a military dictatorship in the 1970s. People in Athens could live a fine life, but the islands were very poor. It was like a couple of hundred years behind. The yiayiades had a hard life, but they really pushed through.”

The village Miari was raised in comprised a handful of large extended families in classic whitewashed houses, each carrying centuries-old nicknames. She was — and is still — called “little walking stick” because of her great-grandfather, a village priest, who walked with a stick a century ago.

Her alarm clock was her yiayia, shouting to the other yiayiades she had grown up with in the village version of WhatsApp. “She wasn’t like, ‘Oh, I’ll call someone — it’s like, I’ll just shout their name over the rooftops.’ And at some point they’ll come out of their house and shout back from their backyard. So even at the weekend you don’t get a lie-in. It was six o’clock wake-up every day.

“It was idyllic for me. But it was very difficult for my mum. My yiayia didn’t even have an oven, it was like a kitchen outhouse where she would break a load of twigs, light them and put the casserole on top. Yiayia still knows exactly when to add twigs to keep up the temperature. She expected my mother to do it. My mum, at the age of 23 and not speaking any Greek, had to go into this weird world.”

She wasn’t the only one. “Growing up, it felt like half of Corfu was half-English,” Miari says. “In the 1990s a lot of women from the north of England went on holidays to Greek islands and met Greek men who seemed a lot more exotic than the boys back home.

“In *Mamma Mia!* [similar to *Shirley Valentine*] it’s these American expats that are having their own little experience, but they don’t have to live with a Greek mother-in-law.”

Eventually Miari and her parents returned to Blackpool for her secondary education. But Miari was sent every summer to live with her yiayia in Corfu, as she has done ever since, an experience that would shape the rest of her life.

“It will be home for ever. Leaving on a plane and seeing the shape of the island from above, I feel emotional.”

As a travel and food journalist based in London, she found her way back through an obsession with grandma cooking. In 2021 she wrote her first book, *Grand Dishes*, about grandma grub the world over, and set up a blog called Matriarch Eats, as well as running culinary retreats cooking with her yiayia in Corfu. In the same spirit, another food writer, Vicky Bennison, has produced a book series preserving Italian nonna recipes, called *Pasta Grannies*. It’s surely not long before we have a British version: Pastry Nanas.

What’s striking about the book is that it’s nothing like the food a tourist like me expects. “We wouldn’t eat tzatziki at home, that’s just something you have in a taverna,” she says. Moussaka was also considered rare. Instead, the book is crammed with spicy wild greens, tomato fritters — a recipe she begged from a yiayia, who almost refused to make it as the tomatoes were not ripe enough — leek pie, octopus pasta and Easter bread. There are few meat recipes: when Miari was a child, meat or fish was cooked only on a Sunday, the rest of the week was vegetarian. “That’s still how I eat now. I’m not trying to adopt a lifestyle, it’s just how I was raised.” In addition, large chunks of the Greek Orthodox calendar, such as Lent, required the adoption of a vegan diet.

Miari spent time living with the grannies of Ithaca, a Greek island home to some of the oldest people on earth. Their diet is “mostly veggies and pulses”. She believes the longevity effect is also in the olive oil: “There’s only a few ingredients, like garlic and olive oil, but you can’t be shy with them.” If you’re not tipping half a cup of olive oil in the pan, you’re probably not using enough. “That’s what makes it taste so good,” she says.

“But it’s also lifestyle. The public services are a disaster, and the shops are closed, but you have more time. A yiayia in Ithaca — who looked more 60 than late eighties, her skin was smoother than mine — was drinking shots of home-brewed alcohol and teaching me to dance. And I said, ‘This is clearly your secret.’ And she said, ‘Yeah, and *sex*.’”

Miari relocated to Athens from London in 2019, and is hoping her yiayia comes to her launch party there as guest of honour and to sign books. Like so many islanders of her generation she never learnt to read or write, “she was taught just to make a cross with a pen: she puts her glasses on to do it”.

In spring last year Miari found out she and her Italian boyfriend were having a baby and signed the book contract in the same week. Her pregnancy was spent island-hopping in the heat, her belly enlarging with baby and olive oil cake fed to her by a succession of yiayiades. She realised the yiayiades weren’t just teaching her how to cook, but how to live, “teaching me how I want to raise my daughter”.

Her generation, she believes, will not be as healthy as them, “which is why I think this book is quite important: we have to make sure this way of living doesn’t die with our grandmothers”. With a pang, she realised her baby — now eight months old — wouldn’t have her own Greek yiayia. But she was built on their food.

## Yiayia Anastasia’s Mediterranean roasted vegetables

A yiayia classic and a take on the traditional dish tourlou tourlou. I like to make a huge tray so there’s enough for a salad the next day, bulked up with quinoa or couscous. It’s a great accompaniment to roast chicken should you fancy adding a little Greek flavour to your Sunday roast.

**Serves 4**

### Ingredients

- 150ml olive oil
- 2 red onions, chopped
- ½ bulb of garlic, cloves crushed or finely chopped
- 20g parsley leaves, chopped
- 2 heaped tbsp dried oregano
- 1 tbsp sea salt flakes
- 1 tsp ground black pepper
- 350g carrots
- 300g large courgettes
- 400g aubergines
- 300g green peppers
- 400g potatoes, peeled and cut into wedges
- 2 tomatoes, sliced or quartered, or 2 handfuls of cherry tomatoes
- 1 glass of water

**To serve**

- Tzatziki
- Feta
- Sourdough bread

### Method

**1** Preheat the oven to 200C/gas 7 and line a large roasting tin with baking parchment.
**2** In a bowl, mix the oil, onion, garlic, parsley, oregano, salt and pepper until combined.
**3** Slice the tops off the carrots, courgettes and aubergines.
**4** Slice lengthways into the peppers, courgettes and aubergines twice (once on each side), but don’t halve them — cut into them just enough to make an indentation running the length of the vegetable.
**5** Stuff these indentations with some of the olive oil and herb mixture. Transfer the peppers, courgettes and aubergines to the prepared roasting tin.
**6** Drop the carrots, potatoes and tomatoes into the bowl with the olive oil mixture and toss to coat. Arrange these vegetables in the roasting tin around the courgettes, aubergines and peppers.
**7** Add a glass of water to the remaining olive oil mixture and pour what remains into the roasting tin.
**8** Add an extra crack of black pepper, then transfer to the oven and roast for 1½-2 hours. During that time, if you see that the vegetables are taking on too much colour turn them over or cover with foil to prevent them from burning. Anastasia likes to cook this for as long as possible so that the flavours develop.
**9** Serve with a blob of tzatziki, a chunk of feta and a good wedge of sourdough.

***Yiayia* by Anastasia Miari (Hardie Grant, £27) is published on May 25. To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Free UK standard P&P on orders over £25. Special discount available for Times+ members. Instagram: @matriarcheats**

GETTY IMAGES (POSED BY MODELS)



# £10k beds, foot rubs on tap: it's the post-birth retreat

## A chic spa in Manhattan offers postnatal care for new mothers. By Nicole Mowbray

You've just given birth. Instead of going home to fend for yourself, imagine a world where you (and your partner) are whisked to a hotel suite where everyone from paediatricians and physiotherapists to sleep experts and psychological support are on hand 24 hours a day. Foot rubs and massages are available on request, as is someone to clean your breast pump, draw you a perineum-soothing sitz bath and teach you infant first aid. Struggling to breastfeed? Order a batch of lactation cookies to your bed. Low on energy? Choose from a menu designed to replenish your body. We're talking steak, seaweed, bone marrow …

This place is not a mirage, it's a reality: the Boram Care postnatal retreat in Manhattan, created to help women through the tricky "fourth trimester", the 12 weeks immediately after birth. It's not only the first in New York, but the first in the whole of the US. As yet, the UK has nothing of this kind — more on which later.

But it comes at a cost. Boram Care is priced from $843 (about £680) a night for a seven-night stay, which includes most things (massages and a few other treatments are extra). It's a price former guests — including several British expats living in New York — have deemed worth paying.

Whereas most post-birth care is centred on the newborn, Boram has made it its mission to shine a light on the wellbeing of the person who has given birth, saying: "Dedicated postnatal care improves the health and wellbeing of mothers and their babies … By focusing on the needs of the mother in the postnatal stage, we are helping her to prioritise her own health, now and in the future." To this end, there's a fully staffed 24-hour nursery down the hall available to care for your baby and allow you to rest and recover.

It's the facility the entrepreneur Boram Nam wished she could visit after welcoming her second child by caesarean section in 2014. "Within a day of our first child's birth in 2010 I was back to work and on the phone — my husband and I were working 12-hour days and weekends to ensure the success of our start-up," she tells me over video call. "However, after our son's C-section birth in 2014 my body felt the weight of juggling recovery, work and family. I know so many cities around the world have dedicated facilities for mums and their babies to rest and recover, and couldn't fathom how a city like New York didn't … So we decided to start one."

> "Our parents aren't awake in the night googling what is 'normal'

The resulting Boram Care facility — which opened in summer 2022 — has been a labour of love. The retreat, located in Manhattan's Midtown district, is steps away from Central Park at the Thompson Hotel and has 12 rooms. Most guests are professionals in their late thirties or early forties, Nam says, and stay on average seven days. Boram Care also reports an increasing number of employers "gifting" a space on the post-birth retreat to their staff. "With higher turnover rates due to poor benefits, it can be costly [for companies] to not invest in parental care," Nam says, but most guests fund stays themselves. "When I had my children my parents were back in Korea, where I grew up," Nam says. "I felt really overwhelmed. Even with my second child I lacked support. I found myself on YouTube looking up videos of how to bathe a newborn because I just couldn't recall what to do. My friends back in Korea were going to facilities where you can get the support you need — in fact, more than 84 per cent of people who give birth in Korea go to postpartum centres. Now, with the benefit of hindsight, I realise I had mild postpartum depression after both my children. I couldn't really enjoy things, I felt quite down. So I'm really happy that Boram Care is now an option for other people who may be in that same boat."

It's a sentiment echoed by Sarah Mallin, Boram Care's director of operations. "I was a neonatal intensive care nurse for several years and a staff educator at Lenox Hill hospital here in New York. I thought I knew everything, yet when my son was born in 2017 I had a very difficult time transitioning to motherhood," she says. "I had to get a lot of support, I had postpartum anxiety. Since then it's been my mission to find a way to help people become effective mothers, and Boram Care is that."

While, yes, the rooms have £10,000 Duxiana mattresses and marble bathtubs and hospital-grade bassinets, it's the inexpensive elements of the retreat that appear to make the biggest difference to new parents. "Building a community is very important," Mallin says. "It's something that can be so lacking in a big city like New York where lots of new parents are isolated and in small apartments that don't always allow for visits from grandparents. Here, guests are encouraged to meet the other new parents and the facility's team is on hand to fill in for 'the village' that's difficult to find in today's world."

Boram Care isn't, however, a medical facility. While it has everything from postpartum doulas to nursing assistants, baby nurses and lactation consultants, guests and babies with more complex needs will be referred for formal medical care.

"What we are doing here is taking the guesswork out of parenting. Our parents aren't up in the middle of the night googling what is 'normal' and what is 'not normal'. We are here for emotional support, we are here to educate — on everything from babywearing to breastfeeding. And we provide 24/7 care, which is really important when it comes to matters like lactation because early support is key to a good experience for mums and babies."

And the care doesn't end when you check out. Kari Esh is responsible for the retreat's virtual "Boram Anywhere" programme. "We are there to walk beside you as you navigate the ongoing challenges of parenthood," she tells me. At $80 a session, it's available to everyone, whether they've been a guest or not (the company tells me it has Boram Anywhere clients who live in London).

Perhaps unsurprisingly, expansion plans are afoot, first in cities across America, then internationally — including, it is hoped, in the UK. For a lucky few new parents, the prospect surely can't come soon enough.





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# The new Oxbridge trick — go private then switch to state

## It boosts your chances of getting in, so no wonder the wealthy are at it, says Helen Kirwan-Taylor

There is one thing that all pushy Notting Hill parents have in common: the idea that the prestigious British university system is one they can "play". After all they've gamed both the stock market and the property market. So when Oxbridge made it clear it would be cutting down on the numbers of privately educated students accepted, their first reaction was: watch me.

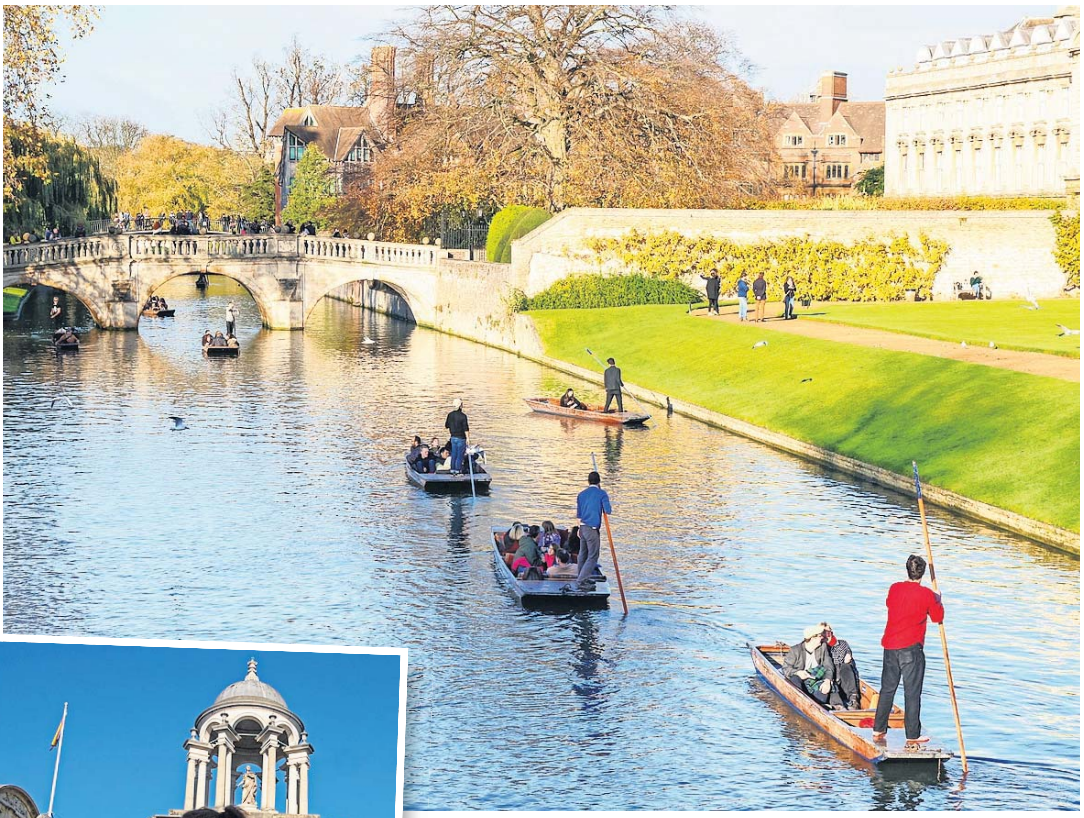
I just met a 16-year-old student who told me he was leaving his glamorous private school in Oxford to attend a high-ranking sixth-form college in deepest London (where his family have a second home). His parents interrupted to say this was for financial reasons (the kitchen alone was at least four terms' worth of tuition), because the idea of their son taking the school place away from someone less fortunate sits badly socially, even among bulldozer parents.

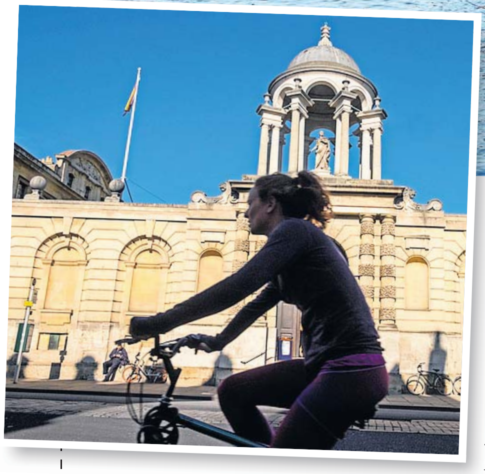
Still, they aren't the only ones. Yesterday it was reported that private school pupils are a third more likely to get into Cambridge if they move to a state sixth form. No wonder the well-to-do are trying their luck.

Gaming the system is not new. In my day I watched friends select A-levels and courses at Oxford simply on the basis that no state school pupils would be applying. Others applied for languages (because they already spoke it) or geography at a minor college, having researched this intensely. Such calculations often rely on specialised in-school counsellors and consultants. Such is the tenacity of Notting Hill parents that one demanded, under the Freedom of Information Act, a full accounting of how many top private school children (with the best marks) were rejected for interviews at Oxford over the past eight years. Four times more it turns out. About 70 per cent of privately educated children we know were rejected by Oxbridge the first time. However, wait an academic year and those numbers seem to change. After a gap year or two many seem to be accepted on a second try.

So what do pushy parents do, knowing that the data universities use highlights the most deprived postcodes to even out the playing fields? In some cases nothing much. "I have some extremely wealthy friends who by sheer coincidence have enormous properties that fall into one of the 'deprived zones'," says one mother of three boys. The algorithm flags certain details, giving the application more crucial points, therefore more likely to make the cut. Some parents, she says, take it one step further by registering under some obscure relative's address so they can access the sixth form of top-performing state schools.

ALAMY





**Top: the River Cam in Cambridge. Above: Oxford**

One teenager she knows who got into Oxford, having been moved into the sixth form of a grammar school, was by no means a brilliant student. However, in his new state school he only had to worry about academics and extension work — favoured by Oxford dons when interviewing — rather than extracurricular. He also had multiple tutors, as does every child in Notting Hill.

It makes this mother see red. "These kids already have all the advantages in the world. Sure, the university system is skewed but everything in their life is skewed in their favour as it is. So what if they have to go to Edinburgh or Durham? The present system is flawed, yes, but the whole point of it is to try and even things out."

These experiments can also go badly wrong. One friend has seen a capable but pony-loving teenage girl be yanked from her all-girl day school to a highly selective mixed-sex state school in a tough neighbourhood (same postcode). "How on earth will she cope?" she says. "How far are we willing to push social engineering, and at what mental cost?"

> **The tutors aren't stupid, they know what's going on**

Her own son is at Oxford, having been to a London day school. "His view is that the tutors aren't stupid. They know what's going on."

Sometimes parents switch systems for genuine reasons. "I took my daughter out of a London day school and put her in a new academy that was within walking distance in Holland Park," she says. "I was a teacher myself and I went to a grammar school. My husband is German so this seemed normal to both of us. We wanted her to live in the real world."

Charles Bonas of the tutors Bonas MacFarlane says the psychometric testing by institutions is selecting cohorts of children who are fast processors and are good at answering clear questions. "The problem is that they are all quite similar," he says. It's often the class slowcoach or high-functioning humanities star who cannot do maths who offers the most interesting contributions and ideas, he says. However, he adds, the percentages of private school students admitted are still very high.

A governor of a state school tells me the "gaming" sickens her colleagues. "Apart from the friendships made and the difficulty in adjusting to new teachers and a new peer group, it would be mad to take a child out of private school just to play the odds. Don't forget it's a massive gamble that they will even get a state school place."

Private schools worry that a VAT levy, should it come, will undo them, meaning we could see a future where only the 0.01 per cent attend private schools. The rest will game the system from the beginning — and judging from the new arrivals in the Cotswolds, who moved out of the city and near good state schools, I'm sure they'll succeed.

## Masqueraders are everywhere

### Helena, 18, an Oxford student

It's nearing the end of freshers week. I'm up at 4am, in tears, typing frantically for the fourth day running. The initial adjustment to uni life has been hard for all my friends, but Oxford is particularly tough. Having come from a state school background, self-motivation is no longer enough. An essay was set the moment we arrived and the prospect of balancing contact hours with freshers' activities looms.

Later, at the Bodleian Library "welcome!" tour, my puffy face is eyed up and down by other students. As the group sets off, a boy keeps pace with me. We exchange names, subjects and, eventually, schools. Both are state comprehensive. Yet he looks confused when I tell him how long it takes me to write anything. How I am already putting in extra hours to meet an extended deadline for work my peer from Highgate School completed days ago; how I've gone from being one of the best in the class to the worst.

"It's a confidence trick," he says, grinning. "Most of it's bullshit anyway." I'm impressed by this. But then he continues, glad at the opportunity to speak. "I mean, I had no work at my [state school] sixth form. I was so used to the pressure from Westminster. Oxford workload isn't really that deep." Less than an hour into my morning I have discovered a masquerader.

Prepped up to his eyeballs with the tools from one of the UK's most elite institutions, this student was already walking through his degree; attending a state sixth form had only made him realise he was miles ahead.

Fast forward to a raucous "crewdate" and I'm picked from a long table for a speed date with a former Etonian. We have five minutes to find out about each other. My date asks, for the third time, where I actually went to school. The idea that I had stayed there for the entire time was met with disbelief and, finally, a sneer ("this probably isn't your thing, then").

The average state schooler approaching extracurriculars has not had the Eton golf-course experience. Yet I've had conversations with those at sixth-form state schools who acquired extracurricular skills from their former private school. Within the JCR committee, public speaking came naturally to those who could fearlessly debate. My first "hust" was a wreck. Those who went private before attending a selective or non-selective state-school sixth form still have this ingrained confidence. And they will probably always be able to write their essays a hundred times faster than me.

*The writer is using a pseudonym*

TOM OLDHAM



# ‘We were floating on an ocean, emotionally — so we built a raft’

## Galen Ayers and the Clash’s Paul Simonon talk to Will Hodgkinson about why they made an album

Galen Ayers was born in a hippie commune in France, raised in the Mallorca town of Deia, lives on the Greek island of Hydra and grew up, as the daughter of the cult songwriter Kevin Ayers and Richard Branson’s first wife, Kristen Tomassi, in gilded Mediterranean bohemianism. Paul Simonon grew up in Brixton and had plans to be an artist before becoming the bassist in the Clash took his life in another direction. They are the archetypal odd couple, unmatched in age — she is 43, he is 67 — and temperament; a modern-day Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazlewood. Perhaps that is what makes the album they have made together, *Can We Do Tomorrow Another Day?*, such a fascinating curio: intimate and charming, but in a haunted way.

“I used to go around off-season seaside resorts and do paintings of them,” says Simonon, explaining the mood of the album. “In winter you get a grey, dull sea mist coming in. Then at seven o’clock all the lights come on, even though there is nobody around. It is a visual poem, really.”

We are in Simonon’s mews house in west London, where his landscape paintings dominate the walls and a cello and an acoustic guitar fill a corner. He has swept-back hair and wears a black pinstripe suit, Ayers has tousled blonde hair over a pastel blue jumper and jeans, and they really do look like the British punk and the European beauty thrown together in unlikely circumstances. The thought of forming a duo began in lockdown, which Simonon spent holed up in a fishing village in Mallorca, accessible only by boat. “It was like a ghost town, nobody was around. I was painting and playing guitar and writing a few songs. When I came back to London Galen was staying at a mutual friend’s house and it developed from there.”

It is also a celebration of Europe in the shadow of Brexit. “I’m living it,” says Ayers, whose 2018 debut album, *Monument,* showcased her way with intimate, reflective folk pop. “When I came here from Greece, for the first time in my life I had to get an artist visa. I was at school here, my father is British, and this is the new reality. I got to the airport and the guy was looking at my paperwork for a really long time. What did I do wrong? Then he went, ‘Are you Kevin Ayers’s daughter? We’re huge fans of his.’ I realised I was in a privileged position at a time when so few European musicians are touring Britain and vice versa because of Brexit. And so the album becomes political simply through the choices we made for it, but not polemic.”

“The Clash were political, but not in terms of party politics,” Simonon says. “That’s something I got from reggae. Me and Joe Strummer used to talk about a song called *Poison Flour* by Dr Alimantado. It told the story of the Jamaican government selling poisoned flour to the poorest people, so the song became a musical newspaper.”

In 1985, after the Clash, as Simonon puts it, “chopped off their right arm” by asking their guitarist Mick Jones to leave because of strained relations, they went off on a busking tour. “It was as exciting as the [1977] *White Riot* tour because you didn’t know what was going to happen; so much better than being mollycoddled at Shea Stadium.” Simonon did the same thing for his album with Ayers, testing out songs on the streets of Mallorca.

Much of the album, “soaked in Europeanism” according to Simonon, has an appropriately out-of-season feel combined with a continental lightness reminiscent of the yé-yé singers of 1960s France and the reggae that Simonon has been steeped in. Ayers’s pure tones on Spanish-language songs such as *Mi Camino* and *No Es Necesario* evoke images of moons over the water and balmy nights in the town square. Simonon’s rougher voice captures an empty feeling on *Lonely Town* and *Room at the Top* and there is a melancholic if playful mood.

“I was in Hydra when Paul was in Mallorca and the lockdown was very strict, so there was a parallel,” Ayers says. “We had texts with different numbers: if you wanted to walk your dog it was three, if you wanted to go to the bank it was six, and so on. And in Hydra there are no cars, so the sense of time is different. When we met he played some of his songs to me, I had a few of mine, and I shyly asked if he would play bass on them. Very soon after we decided to do an album.”

Both had also gone through break-ups in recent years, and while they are not a couple, working on the songs together helped them to deal with their situations. “When change inevitably comes in life, you can either let go or be dragged down,” Ayers says. “Maybe there is a third option, which is to make an album. You transmute the chaos in your head into three-minute songs and that is where the album’s haunted feeling comes from. We were both in chaotic periods in our life, so we grabbed on to what we could rely upon, which was music.”

“We were floating on an ocean, emotionally, so we built a raft through the songs,” Simonon adds, poetically.

Despite coming from very different backgrounds, Ayers and Simonon could relate to each other’s childhoods. Simonon grew up in south London, but after his parents divorced he moved with his mother and stepfather to Italy for a year when he was 11, first to Siena, then to Rome.

“It was so strange. Grapes, melons, parmesan, and you got things for free for being a little blond kid. I didn’t go to school because I couldn’t face wearing the smock uniform they had, so I used to roam the streets. In Rome me and my brother would hang out in the cemetery where Keats was buried.”

“I get the sense that you were an outsider, which was certainly the case with me,” Ayers says. “Born in France, moved to Mallorca, parents split when I was one and a half, moved in with the stepfamily, and then there were six or seven years when my dad wasn’t working so we grew up together. He was living in Deia, 20 minutes’ drive from our house, and I was the only blonde girl at a Catholic school run by nuns. Various women who turned out to be my dad’s latest girlfriend arrived to pick me up on a weekend. I’d say, ‘Who are you?’ ‘Oh, your dad sent me to get you.’ ‘OK …’.”

It got even stranger when she was sent to St Christopher, a vegetarian boarding school in Letchworth in Hertfordshire. “I arrived not even knowing what a pair of Levi’s was, with none of the references the other kids shared. And at St Christopher you could get away with smoking a joint in the bushes, but get caught with a McDonald’s and you were out.”

Ayers learnt to play guitar there and picked up a few tricks from her father, who alongside releasing a series of brilliantly singular solo albums was a founder member of the progressive rock band Soft Machine. In her early twenties she duetted with him on a song of his called *Girl on a Swing*. “He taught me that you need to be able to grab one instrument and play the song on it, but on a deeper level he showed me the effect it had on his life. On the last day I ever saw him we had an argument and I shouted: ‘Be a dad for a minute! Stop being the artist, I need your advice!’ He looked at me and said, ‘I’ve given the best of me to my songs. Go and listen to them.’ ”

Kevin Ayers wrote songs of great beauty, but his personal life was strewn with affairs, drug and alcohol problems. “Music was the compass of his life,” his daughter says. “Everything else he couldn’t rely on. What I learnt from him is to have a sense of humour in songwriting, but at the same time try and say something within it.”

Simonon had the challenge of being in the Clash with writers of the calibre of Joe Strummer and Mick Jones, and although he did write songs in that time — *The Guns of Brixton* is one of his — he kept it to a minimum. “I learnt something important from Joe: if you can sing it around the campfire, you’ve got a song.”

“I would say we’ve achieved that with these songs,” Ayers says. “They’re very playable, very hummable, very… campfireable.”

Many of them came from what Simonon calls “almost being a couple… but not”. *I’ve Never Had a Good Time… In Paris* came from Ayers saying just that, leading toward a Gallic-themed song in which they argue over the merits of the city.

She recalls another lesson her father taught her: that a good song says a lot in as few words as possible. “You don’t want to be too intellectual,” she says. Simonon concludes, with a toothy, defiantly nonintellectual grin: “That’s why it is good working with me.”

**Galen Ayers, the daughter of Soft Machine’s Kevin Ayers, and Paul Simonon**

***Can We Do Tomorrow Another Day?* by Galen & Paul is out tomorrow on Sony**

# Here's what England's champion bookworms should read next

## A study shows that English children are now world-beaters at reading. Lucy Bannerman picks 10 top tales

As with pop music, the UK has always punched above its weight when it comes to producing stories for children. Now a study has found that English kids are better at reading than children anywhere else in Europe or America. Only Singapore, Russia and Hong Kong have higher standards in reading, according to the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study. Here are ten mind-stretching, vocabulary-enhancing books from the past ten years to challenge and enchant 9 to 12-year-olds.

CHRIS MCANDREW FOR THE TIMES



**Katherine Rundell and, below right, an illustration from Frank Cottrell-Boyce's Runaway Robot**

**1 The Book of Dust by Philip Pullman (2017) Penguin Random House and David Fickling Books**
It never fails to dazzle how Pullman took the thorniest questions facing theologians — is there life after death? Can consciousness be separate from matter? Is the loss of innocence inevitable? — and turned them into a thrilling adventure to excite all ages.

The first volume of *The Book of Dust*, the companion trilogy to *His Dark Materials*, reveals the origin story of Lyra Belacqua, who as an infant is secretly passed into the care of nuns. The second volume jumps forward to join 20-year-old Lyra as she and her daemon, Pantalaimon, venture far beyond Oxford, into Europe and Asia, in search of a lost city on their own journey into adulthood. Magisterial.

**2 Tyger by SF Said (2022) David Fickling Books**
The fourth novel by the British Muslim author SF Said has been hailed as a masterpiece and has just been named children's fiction book of the year at the British Book Awards.

In an alternative world where the British Empire never ended and slavery continues, a young boy called Adam finds something unusual in a rubbish dump in London: a talking tiger. But Sir Mortimer Maldedye wants the beast for his menagerie.

Adam and his friend Zadie must use their imagination to save the tiger and change the course of history. The meaty themes and ambitious vocabulary make this a book for confident readers, although the author himself is the first to say that there is no place for snobbery when it comes to shaping children's reading habits: "I really don't think an adult should ever dismiss or belittle a choice that a child has made themselves."

**3 The Explorer by Katherine Rundell (2017) Bloomsbury**
Her adventures across the Parisian rooftops (*Rooftoppers*), the Russian woods (*The Wolf Wilder*) and the speakeasies of Prohibition-era New York (*The Good Thieves*) have sealed Rundell's status as one of our greatest living children's authors.

In *The Explorer*, readers are plunged into the Amazon jungle alongside a group of children whose plane has crashed, leaving them stranded. Fred, Con, Lila and her little brother, Max — and a baby sloth — must rely on their wits to survive. As they push further into the jungle, they start seeing traces of someone else, another explorer, who appears to have been there before them … It is an exquisitely rendered tale, with plenty of danger and derring-do. Rundell said she wanted children to know they are braver than they think, and "to add one more landscape to their vision of the world".

Who needs screen time when there are tarantulas to be eaten and piranhas to be caught?




**4 When Life Gives You Mangoes by Kereen Getten (2020) Pushkin**
Twelve-year-old Clara can't remember what happened last summer, or understand why her best friend is so angry with her. She lives in a small village on a tropical island, but why does the sea she once loved now fill her with fear?

Then Rudy arrives. With her new friend from England, Clara starts to roam the island and explore the house of Clara's reclusive Uncle Eldorath, unlocking an old family secret and bringing repressed memories back to the surface.

This dreamy evocation of a Caribbean childhood — with a surprise twist — won plenty of plaudits for its debut author, Kereen Getten, who lives in Birmingham but grew up in Jamaica.

**5 Asha and the Spirit Bird by Jasbinder Bilan (2019) Chicken House**
Asha's life on the family farm in the Himalayan foothills is suddenly in peril when a wicked debt collector arrives, determined to seize the farm and the treasure rumoured to be hidden there. The girl "with mountain-green eyes" sets out on a quest to find her father, who works in a factory in a distant city and who has for some reason stopped sending letters — and his wages. The journey will be tough but it's OK; Asha has the protective spirit of her grandmother for company in the form of a bearded vulture.

Although it touches on serious topics, this is a comforting tale that pulses with magical realism and the memory of Indian folk tales. Uplifting.

**6 Five Children on the Western Front by Kate Saunders (2014) Faber**
It is testament to the tremendous talents of the novelist and critic Kate Saunders, who died in April, that this tale about the First World War is tender and heart-wrenching but never overwhelming for the younger reader. It is told from the viewpoint of the characters from E Nesbit's Edwardian classic, *Five Children and It*. The older children are now grown up, and the Psammead has reappeared, but their world is about to be changed for ever. A witty and enchanting Costa prizewinner.

**7 Home Games by Benjamin Markovits (2020) HarperCollins**
Markovits is an American novelist who left an unpromising career as a basketball player to write highbrow books for adults. This, his first book for children, is a gentle domestic drama that deals with divorce, culture shock and the struggle to make new friends through the eyes of 12-year-old Ben, who is uprooted from life in central Manhattan to begin a new life in suburban Texas. A sweet tale that will appeal to introverts and/or sports-minded schoolkids. The Times called it "an accomplished slam dunk".

**8 The Week at World's End by Emma Carroll (2020) Faber**
Carroll, a former English teacher who lives in Somerset, is the queen of historical fiction for kids. The time is October 1962, the week the world held its breath and wondered whether nuclear war was nigh. Set during the six days when the Cuban missile crisis became public, this tense thriller follows Stevie and her best friend, Ray, who find an American girl hiding in a garden shed. Together, they must wrestle with moral dilemmas as the adults around them grow ever more anxious. Gripping.

**9 Runaway Robot by Frank Cottrell-Boyce (2020) Pan Macmillan**
A giant robot named Eric? Tick. A boy who has lost his bionic hand? Tick. Enough hilarity to keep even the most reluctant reader turning the pages? This is Frank Cottrell-Boyce, so absolutely!

When Alfie loses his robotic hand, he goes to lost property and finds more than he ever bargained for — a 6ft-tall robot who is nearly a hundred years old, likes a tune and has a tendency to squash police cars. Oh, and he's illegal, so Alfie had better keep him hidden or else he'll be sent to the scrap heap.

The Carnegie-winning novelist and screenwriter knows how crucial humour is to fostering a lifelong love of books, and he deploys it here to gleeful perfection.

**10 Mariella, Queen of the Skies by Eoin Colfer, illus. Katy Halford (2018) Barrington Stoke**
Finally, there's no point recommending all the wonderful books above unless youngsters have already caught the reading bug. The Little Gems range from Barrington Stoke deserves special mention for its series of books that are designed specifically to build the reading speed and stamina of children aged 5-8. The easy-to-read fonts and child-friendly format help to bridge that gap between picture books and chapter books, preparing them — hopefully — for a lifetime of reading for pleasure.

In *Mariella, Queen of the Skies*, by the bestselling children's author Eoin Colfer, Mariella is determined to outsmart sleep so she invents a rocket-powered flying suit to zap her round the world faster than the setting sun. Does what the Little Gems series does best: makes reading a joy.



times2

# Your weekday brain boost

More puzzles Pages 14-16

## Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

## Samurai medium

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

Top left

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| 5 | | | | 7 | 6 | | | 9 |
| 8 | 1 | | | | 9 | | 7 | |
| | | 7 | 5 | | | | | 2 |
| 3 | 9 | 4 | 7 | | | | 8 | |
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Top right

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Centre

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Bottom left

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| | | | 9 | | | 4 | | |
| | 7 | 4 | | | | | 1 | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | 4 | 6 | | | 2 | 8 |

Bottom right

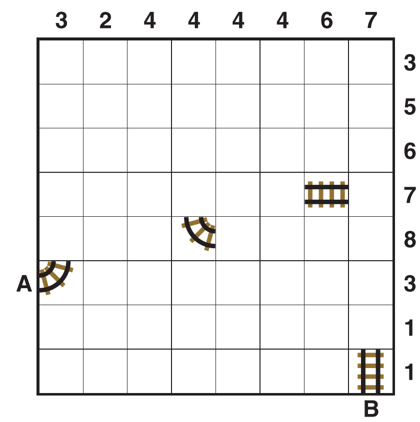
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| 4 | | | 2 | 8 | | | | 5 |
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## Sudoku difficult

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| | | 6 | | | | 7 | | |
| | 7 | | | | | | 1 | |
| 2 | | | | 3 | | | | 9 |
| | 8 | | 1 | | 7 | | 2 | |
| 9 | 5 | | | | | | 7 | 6 |
| | | 2 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 4 | | |

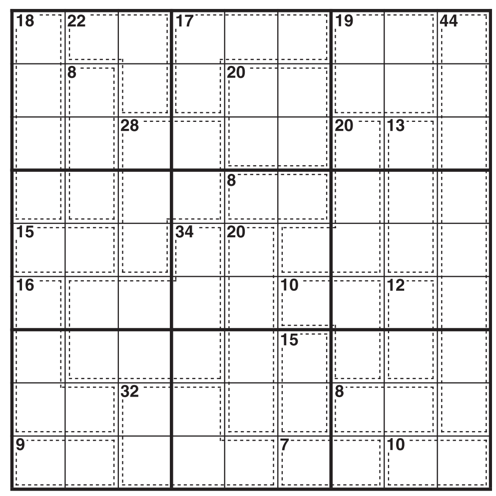
## Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.




## Killer deadly

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

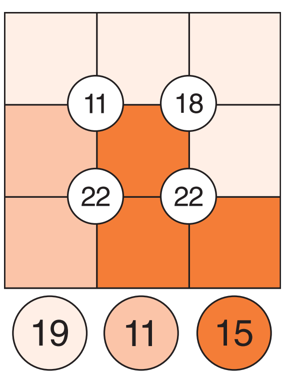


## Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

□ 5 □ □ □
v . . ^ v
3 < □ □ □ □
□ < □ □ □ > □
□ □ □ □ □
^
□ □ □ 1 □

## Suko

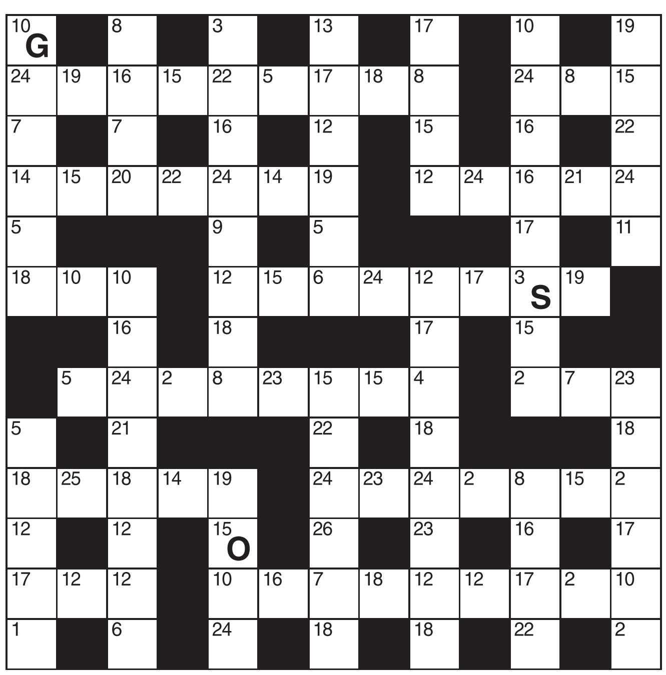



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Solve Times puzzles interactively with same-day solutions at thetimes.co.uk

## Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.



A B C D E F ~~G~~ H I J K L M N ~~O~~ P Q R ~~S~~ T U V W X Y Z

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | S | | | | | | | G | | | |

| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
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| | O | | | | | | | | | | | |

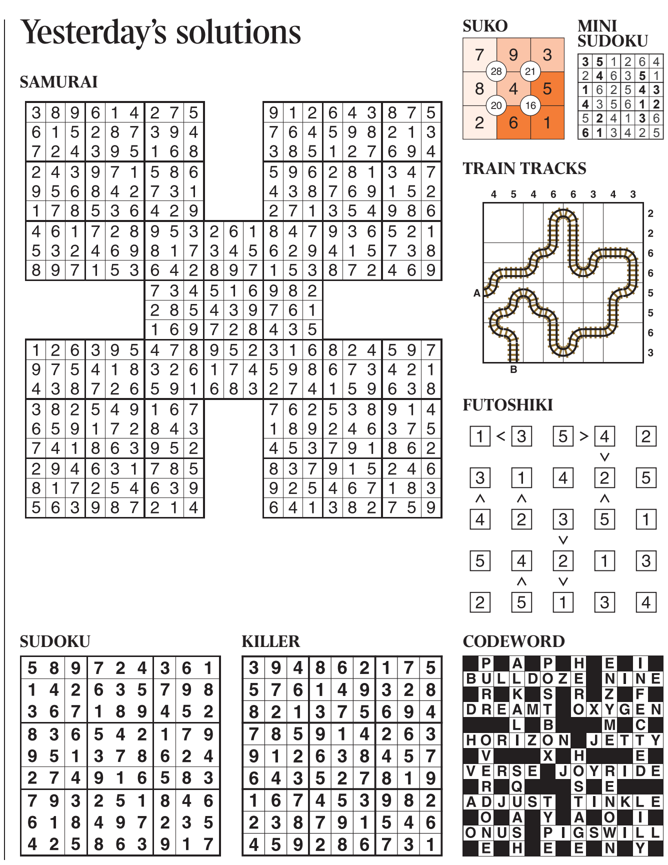
## Mini Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| | 6 | | | | 3 |
| | | | 3 | 1 | |
| | | 2 | | | 6 |
| | | 5 | | | 1 |
| | 1 | | 2 | 6 | |

Solutions in Monday's Times2

## Yesterday's solutions



# How the Busted man beat drink and drugs

**Carol Midgley**
**TV review**



**Matt Willis: Fighting Addiction**
BBC1
★★★★☆

**11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting**
BBC2
★★★★☆

Documentaries about addiction tend to follow a similar script. We see the addict at home with their loving family, then comes the painful backstory, then the science bit to show how pleasure receptors in their brain are different from those of non-addicts, then therapy and finally the addict will reveal something they have learnt about themselves. **Matt Willis: Fighting Addiction** followed exactly this drill. It was fascinating.

But then addiction always is because it's not really about the booze, the cocaine, the benders — they are just Johnny-come-lately Elastoplasts. It's about buried trauma, childhood scars screaming from deep within. It's like trying to cover weeds with gravel … eventually they poke through.

Willis, a member of the band Busted and a nice chap, had a troubled childhood. His parents separated when he was three and his relationship with his mother's boyfriend was "heated"; there was mention of violence. Here things got a little vague and he didn't really talk about his relationships with his parents now, which, in a documentary about facing up to who you are, felt like an omission.

But maybe that was out of respect for them, or maybe he has blocked so much of it out. He told his therapist he could barely remember most of his childhood and she said that kind of zoning out was a common survival response. Where Willis is lucky is with his brilliant wife, Emma, who has seen the dark days when he was drinking and snorting himself to oblivion and loved him out of it. With Willis now sober, we saw him detailing his rider for Busted's latest tour: protein powder, collagen, MCT oil, nuts, protein bars. For a man who once snorted six grams of coke a day, it was a list for survival.

PHIL SHARP/BBC



Matt Willis says he can barely remember much of his childhood

"The story to me wasn't about a shooter; it was about people helping each other," said Storme Warren, a survivor of America's biggest mass shooting, at a country music festival in Las Vegas in 2017. And the stories of heroism, courage and altruism were told so beautifully in **11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting** they took the breath away, restoring one's faith that there are many more good people than evil ones.

But we are still left with the fact that one scumbag desperate for a perverted "legacy" (I refuse to name him) fired more than 1,000 bullets into a crowd of music lovers, killing 60 and injuring hundreds more, because he was allowed to stockpile automatic guns. This excellent series was traumatic to watch as we were witnessing mass murder in real time, captured on people's phones. How strange it must feel for them now to witness their own hell, their own screams. A coping mechanism for trauma is to forget, to dissociate, but here was the full replay.

Inspirational is an overused word but how else to describe Natalie Grumet, who was there celebrating having twice beaten cancer, then was shot in the face. Yet here she was, recovered, saying this: "That night one person showed evil and since then hundreds of thousands have shown kindness. That's where I want the focus to be." Extraordinary.

## Radio choice
Ben Dowell



**In Our Time**
Radio 4, 9am

**The Roman poet Virgil's *Georgics* was written in the last century BC and offers poetic instruction for the proper care of the land and farm creatures as well as reflecting on the comfort the poet found in nature and away from the turbulence of the city. It is also the subject of today's discussion. Melvyn Bragg's guests include Neville Morley, professor of Classics and ancient history at the University of Exeter; Katharine Earnshaw, senior lecturer in Classics and ancient history, also at Exeter; and Diana Spencer, *above*, professor of Classics and dean of liberal arts and natural sciences at the University of Birmingham.**

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## Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app
**5.00am** Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley. An insider's guide to politics **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup. Cultural guests and big thinkers **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover. Jane and Fi's trademark entertaining style plus live discussion of the day's news **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive. Conversation with political and economic guests **7.00** Pienaar and Friends. Informed debate with leading figures **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay. Conversation **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

## Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
**6.30am** The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay. Featuring Def Leppard in the Piano Room **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley. The Thursday Theme is songs relating to darkness **9.00** The Country Show with Bob Harris. A selection of music from across the generations **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7. Seven of Rhythm Nation's biggest hits, uplifting tunes and essential throwbacks **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. The DJ introduces a mix of R'n'B and soulful tunes **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

## Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
**6.30am Breakfast**
Petroc Trelawny presents Radio 3's classical breakfast show, featuring listener requests
**9.00 Essential Classics**
Georgia Mann plays the best in classical music, with familiar favourites, new finds and the occasional musical surprise
**12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)**
Donald Macleod with Matthew Bourne and Monica Mason compare Tchaikovsky's achievements in *The Sleeping Beauty* with his first ballet, *Swan Lake*. Tchaikovsky (Impromptu in A flat; Serenade, Op 65 No 3 — Six Melodies; *The Sleeping Beauty*, Op 66 — Act 3 excerpt; *The Queen of Spades*, Op 68 — Act 1: *Liza's Aria*; *Hamlet*, Op 67a — Overture; and *Souvenir de Florence*, Op 70 — Adagio cantabile e com moto)
**1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert**
Hannah French continues a series of Mediterranean Baroque music, today performed by viol-player Liam Byrne and lutenist Jonas Nordberg. Their programme includes works by Kapsberger, Marais and Ortiz, all player-composers of both the lute and the viol in what is modern day Spain, France and Italy. Ortiz (Spagna 1, Spagna 2 & Passamezzo); Kaspberger (*Canario & Kapsberger*, and 2 Toccatas); Marais/De Visee (E minor Suite); St Colombe (D minor prelude & Chaconne); and Marais (*Le Badinage*). Recorded at LSO St Luke's in London in April
**2.00 Afternoon Concert**
Fiona Talkington continues a week of Afternoon Concert featuring the Ulster Orchestra performing at Ulster Hall, Belfast. Today, Sibelius' 6th Symphony, and music by Bach, Bacewicz and Ravel. Including: JS Bach (*Der Gerechte kömmt um*, BWV deest; and *Lobet Gott in seinen Reichen*, BWV 11, cantata); Bacewicz (Divertimento for Strings); Verdi (String Quartet in E minor arr. Ricardo Minasi); Handel (Chaconne, HWV.435); Sibelius (Symphony no.6 in D minor, Op.104); Schumann (*Fairy Tales for Clarinet, viola & piano*, Op.132); Rudi Stephan (*Liebeszauber*); and Ravel (Piano Concerto for the Left Hand in D)
**5.00 In Tune**
With the pianist Keelan Carew
**7.00 Classical Mixtape**
As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, half an hour of uninterrupted classical music specially curated by Jess Gillam
**7.30 Live Radio 3 in Concert**
Live from the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. Presented by Tom McKinney. The BBC Philharmonic and their Chief Conductor, John Storgards, welcome the Estonian National Male Choir to the Bridgewater Hall for a rare performance of Shostakovich's Symphony No.13. Arvo Pärt (*De profundis*); Sibelius (Violin Concerto); and Shostakovich (Symphony No.13 — *Babi Yar*)
**10.00 Free Thinking**
Matthew Sweet is joined by Simon Heffer and Tim Burrows
**10.45 The Essay: De Waal's Itinerant Pots**
Edmund de Waal tells the story of the Fonthill Vase (r)
**11.00 The Night Tracks Mix**
Sara Mohr-Pietsch with a magical sonic journey for late-night listening
**11.30 Unclassified**
Elizabeth Alker presents (r)
**12.30am Through the Night** (r)

## Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
**5.30am News Briefing**
**5.43 Prayer for the Day**
**5.45 Farming Today**
**5.58 Tweet of the Day** (r)
**6.00 Today**
With Nick Robinson and Amol Rajan
**8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament**
**9.00 In Our Time**
The history of ideas. ***See Radio Choice***
**9.45 (LW) Daily Service**
**9.45 Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police**
By Matt Lloyd-Rose (4/5)
**10.00 Woman's Hour**
Magazine presented by Anita Rani
**11.00 Crossing Continents**
Current affairs reports from around the world. Last in the series
**11.30 Great Lives**
The author Jon Ronson speaks to Matthew about his admiration for Terry Hall (7/9) (r)
**12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast**
**12.04 You and Yours**
**12.30 Sliced Bread**
Greg Foot searches for the scientific evidence behind a product's bold claims (2/10)
**1.00 The World at One**
**1.45 Frontlines of Journalism**
How the same story can look very different depending on how it is written (9/10)
**2.00 The Archers** (r)
**2.15 Drama: Yellow Lips**
By Katie Redford (r)
**3.00 Ramblings**
New series. Clare Balding joins a child and his mothers on the Thames Path (1/7)
**3.27 Radio 4 Appeal**
On behalf of Cure EB (r)
**3.30 Open Book**
Featuring works by Deborah Levy (r)
**4.00 Princess**
Charlene White and Ravynn Stringfield look at *Black Panther*'s Princess Shuri (7/10)
**4.30 BBC Inside Science**
**5.00 PM**
**5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast**
**6.00 Six O'Clock News**
**6.30 It's a Fair Cop**
A comedic look at anti-social behaviour and the ever divisive ASBO (3/4) (r)
**7.00 The Archers**
Emma struggles to let go
**7.15 Front Row**
**8.00 A Celebration for Ascension Day**
The Rt Rev Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani is the preacher at a service for Ascension Day, live from St Martin-in-the-Fields in London
**9.00 BBC Inside Science**
The latest scientific research (r)
**9.30 In Our Time**
The history of ideas (r)
**10.00 The World Tonight**
**10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece**
By Tom Hanks (4/10)
**11.00 Rylan: How to Be a Man**
*Strictly* star and wildlife cameraman Hamza Yassin talks to the presenter Rylan (1/10)
**11.30 Today in Parliament**
**12.00 News and Weather**
**12.30am Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police** (r)
**12.48 Shipping Forecast**
**1.00 As BBC World Service**

## Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
**8.00am** The Burkiss Way **8.30** Thank You, Mrs Fothergill **9.00** Booked **9.30** Clare in the Community **10.00** Parson Harding's Daughter **11.00** Shadows in Bronze **11.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **12.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **12.15pm** Young Victoria **12.30** All Those Women **1.00** The Burkiss Way **1.30** Thank You, Mrs Fothergill **2.00** Booked **2.30** Clare in the Community **3.00** Parson Harding's Daughter **4.00** Shadows in Bronze **4.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **5.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **5.15** Young Victoria **5.30** All Those Women **6.00** The Burkiss Way **6.30** Thank You, Mrs Fothergill. Comedy starring Sheila Hancock **7.00** Booked. Literary quiz chaired by Ian McMillan **7.30** Clare in the Community. The care worker discovers she has an Irish ancestor **8.00** Writing — The Midlands. The crime writer Mark Billingham goes back to his roots for a literary tour of the Midlands **9.00** Great Lives. Daniel Rigby discusses the life of Victoria Wood **9.30** A Gathering Light. By Jennifer Donnelly. First aired in 2004 **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth. By Julian Simpson **10.00** Comedy Club: It's a Fair Cop. A real-life case of invasion of privacy and consent **10.30** Tom Wrigglesworth's Hang-Ups. Tom enlists his dad to take delivery of an important package **11.00** Ida Barr: Artificial Hip Hop. Comedy by Christopher Green **11.15** Little Lifetimes. Beverley Callard stars in Jenny Eclair's comic monologue about a 60th Birthday party. Last in the series **11.30** Rigor Mortis. Comedy with Peter Davison

## Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
**5.00am** Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Adrian Chiles **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** 5 Live Sport: AZ Alkmaar v West Ham United (Kick-off **8.00**) **10.30** Colin Murray **1.00am** Johnny I'Anson

## talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
**5.00am** Early Breakfast **6.00** Alan Brazil **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Baker **4.00** Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off: Newcastle United v Brighton & Hove Albion (Kick-off **7.30**) **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

## TalkRadio
Digital only
**5.00am** James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Andre Walker **1.00am** Paul Ross

## 6 Music
Digital only
**5.00am** Chris Hawkins **7.30** Lauren Laverne **10.30** Nemone **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **6.00** Steve Lamacq's Roundtable **7.00** Marc Riley **9.00** Deb Grant **12.00** New Music Fix with Steve Lamacq **1.00am** New Music Fix with Mary Anne Hobbs **2.00** New Music Fix with Tom Ravenscroft **3.00** New Album Fix **4.00** New Music Fix Playlist

## Virgin Radio
Digital only
**6.30am** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

## Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
**6.00am** More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven **10.00** Calm Classics. Ritula Shah presents **1.00am** Sam Pittis **4.00** Early Breakfast

# television & radio

## Viewing Guide
Joe Clay

### Amol Rajan Interviews
BBC2, 7pm

Top pick

**Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein are the investigative journalists who broke the story of the Watergate case against Richard Nixon in The Washington Post in 1972. In this interview, Amol Rajan questions the pair (who were portrayed by Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman in the 1976 movie *All the President's Men*) on the scandal that led to the resignation of the 37th US president, as well as on the presidency of Donald Trump and the state of America and the world today. Woodward and Bernstein are still two of the biggest names in US news journalism. In an article for the Post last year, they accused Trump of going further than Nixon in trying to retain power by any means possible. They also discuss their humble beginnings knocking on doors after the Watergate burglary, and what it is like to be "journalistically mythologised" on the big screen. In the decades since Watergate, Woodward has written books about a host of political heavyweights, from Barack Obama to Trump, and he shares his insights on them and others, while Bernstein, a regular on US news programmes, shares his views on the media. The interview was conducted shortly after President Biden declared he is running again — becoming the oldest candidate yet to do so — and they discuss his presidency and "the forces tearing western democracies apart".**

### No Escape
Paramount+

**It's an intriguing start to a drama — a boat adrift on the ocean is boarded by a rescue team. The boat is deserted and it looks as if whoever was there either left in a hurry or vanished into thin air. There is uneaten food and plates laid out on the table, while in the bedroom a door swings open with the words "I Confess" daubed on it in blood. The action shifts to Townsville, Australia, where English waitress Emma (*Tin Star*'s Abigail Lawrie) is brought in for questioning by the police, who think she might know something about events on board The Blue. A twisty four-part thriller ensues.**

## Early

### BBC1
**6.00am** Breakfast **9.15** Rip Off Britain. How scammers ruined a woman's credit rating **10.00** Frontline Fightback. Cyberattacks on small businesses **10.45** Defenders UK. Catching a fraudster who lied to get a job as an Airline Captain **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. Featuring properties in Cornwall, Co Durham and south Wales **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Natasha Raskin Sharp presents from Newbury Showground in Berkshire (r) (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Rob cooks up a storm (AD) **2.15** Money for Nothing. Sarah Moore gets crafty with a collection of knitted blankets and patches **3.00** Escape to the Country. Nicki Chapman returns to her Kent roots to help a young family find a new home, as well as reuniting with her mother and an old schoolfriend at her family's beach hut (r) **3.45** The Bidding Room. Featuring a toy cafeteria truck, a surprising key and Victorian children's clogs (r) **4.30** The Repair Shop. Restoring a painting of a Lebanese landscape, a pair of silver Shabbat candlesticks and a dilapidated car jack (r) (AD) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz presented by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

### BBC2
**6.30am** Money for Nothing (r) **7.15** Escape to the Country (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Between the Covers (r) (AD, SL) **8.30** Caught Red Handed (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** Impossible. Rick Edwards hosts the quiz (r) **1.45** Eggheads. Quiz hosted by Jeremy Vine (r) **2.15** Eat Well for Less? Gregg Wallace and Chris Bavin meet a Nottinghamshire family with a high-sugar diet that is having a serious impact on their health and their bank balance (r) **3.15** Secret Britain. Ellie Harrison, Chris Hollins and Denise Lewis explore Devon, including the area's best kept secrets and an ancient and long-forgotten purification ritual on Dartmoor (r) **4.15** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. The designers hit the high street in Salisbury, working in pairs to transform a bridal shop, a homeware shop and a lingerie shop (r) (AD) **5.15** Flog It! A compilation edition, featuring finds at Bletchley Park, the Ulster Transport Museum and Crowcombe Court (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Luke Kempner, Nabil Abdulrashid, Sarah Millican and Philippa Perry take part (r) **6.30** Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip. Clive finds out if he could make it as a gondolier in Venice

### ITV1
**6.00am** Good Morning Britain. News, current affairs and lifestyle features **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. Daily magazine, featuring a mix of chat, showbusiness news, lifestyle features, topical discussion, health and beauty advice and more. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Men. Vernon Kay hosts this special edition to mark Mental Health Awareness Week, joined on the panel by Tommy Fury, Paul Sinha and Martin Kemp **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and the dealers are in Newport, south Wales, where items include a pair of Arts and Crafts candlesticks and a gold watch (r) (AD) **3.00** Tenable. Sally Lindsay hosts as five family and friends from Cheshire try to answer questions about top 10 lists, before trying to score a perfect 10 in the final round (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz **5.00** The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as contestants work together as a team to take on one of the Chasers in a bid to win thousands of pounds **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

### Channel 4
**6.05am** Countdown. Annie Macmanus is in Dictionary Corner (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) (AD) **8.25** Frasier (r) (AD) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. Items uncovered in Norfolk include a tractor (r) (AD) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me. In Birmingham, three couples compete to host the best dinner party (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch. Weekday magazine show hosted by Steph McGovern **2.10pm** Countdown. Annie Macmanus is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. Linda and Charlotte Rodriguez help a couple who want to swap wet winters in their Welsh caravan for a holiday haven in the Costa Blanca sun, for a budget of €115,000 (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Laura Hamilton helps fitness fans hunt for a holiday home in Costa Da Caparica, Portugal, on a budget of £300,000 **5.00** Help! We Bought a Village. The owners of a village in France officially open after two years of renovations (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer is fired from the power plant and secures a job as an ice-cream man (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. At The Dog, James and Ste's stag do celebrations are underway, but when the games start things become tense (r) (AD)

### Channel 5
**6.00am** Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with co-host Storm Huntley joining him for phone-ins and reading out viewers' correspondence **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues with the presenter, who takes viewers calls on the biggest stories **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions on them **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. A shellshocked Remi digests the news that Bree is pregnant (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: Ruby Herring Mysteries — Her Last Breath (PG, TVM, 2019)** Ruby and Killian look into a suspicious fatal road accident, but just when they think they have the case wrapped up, Ruby uncovers new evidence. Thriller with Taylor Cole **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. A pair of best friends hit the road for a coastal camping mini-break near Marbella, while cafe owners try to cut costs and put down roots (r) (AD) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. Entertainers take on the regular quiz experts (r) **6.30** Eggheads. Hoping to topple the quizzing giants are the Tyrell Corporation (r) **6.55** 5 News Update





Investigation: how ketamine became the UK's

In the last decade, ketamine has become one of the most popular drugs among students. Part of its appeal seems to be a false reputation for being comparatively safe. But The Times has uncovered never-before-seen data that paints a much darker picture.


## Evening

### BBC1
**7.00 The One Show** Presented by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

**7.30 EastEnders** Jay breaks Lola out of hospital for a fun-filled day at the seaside, but it soon goes wrong as the pair get in trouble with the police (AD)

**8.00 MasterChef** The second group of seven hopefuls compete to experience a professional kitchen with John Torode and guest judge Monica Galetti choosing who will work in the Royal Opera House's Piazza restaurant (AD)

**9.00 Gordon Ramsay's Future Food Stars** The semi-finalists have their social media skills tested as they are challenged to sell a local street food brand online. Next, Gordon asks the contestants to devise a recipe to appear on the front page of Waitrose's in-house magazine (7/8) (AD)

**10.00 BBC News at Ten**

**10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather**

**10.40 Question Time** Fiona Bruce presents the topical debate in Fort William, Inverness-shire, inviting a panel of politicians and other guests to answer questions from an invited audience on subjects that have made the headlines over the past week

**11.40 Newscast** A weekly round-up from Westminster, delivering a mix of analysis and light-hearted gossip about the biggest stories in politics

**12.15am-6.00** BBC News

### BBC2
**7.00 Watergate to Trump: Amol Rajan Interviews** An interview with Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the journalists at the heart of the Watergate scandal. *See Viewing Guide*

**7.45 Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs** Finding out about the ancient oak woods of Loch Sunart (3/6) (r)

**8.00 DNA Family Secrets** A 79-year-old woman who grew up in a Nazi concentration camp as a Jewish orphan longs to know more about her family, and whether any of her relatives escaped the Holocaust (2/6) (r) (AD)

**9.00 Guilt** Max has a plan to seize Sir Jim Sturrock's money from Maggie Lynch, but he will not tell Jake what it is, leaving his brother close to entering a secret alliance with Sheila. Maggie meets with her estranged daughter and reveals that Max is back, but she has revelations of her own (4/4) (AD)

**10.00 Inside No 9** Wolfie and Clarke love their bus — but not as much as the mysterious Mr Cole (5/6) (AD)

**10.30 Newsnight** Headline analysis presented by Victoria Derbyshire

**11.15 The Stones and Brian Jones** Nick Broomfield examines the life and legacy of the founder member of the Rolling Stones, looking at the relationships and rivalries within the band in their formative years

**12.50am Sign Zone: Inside the Factory** Visiting the Vale of Mowbray pork pie factory in Northallerton, Yorkshire (r) (AD, SL) **1.50** Dr Xand's Con or Cure. The dangers of health tourism and catching a cold (r) (SL) **2.35** Iolo's Borderlands. The borderlands of Radnorshire (r) (AD, SL) **3.05-3.35** MasterChef (r) (AD, SL)

### ITV1
**7.30 Emmerdale** Moira swallows her pride and tells Kim to make an offer for her land, Wendy and Liam bond, and Caleb feels the pressure mounting (AD)

**8.30 All-Inclusive Holidays: Unpacked — Tonight** Ginny Buckley reports on the value and practicalities of all-inclusive holidays

**9.00 Without Sin** Stella finally learns the devastating truth about what happened to her daughter. Meanwhile, Charles finds himself fighting for his life in hospital after a savage stabbing, as the McKellers make good on their threat, turning his naive cellmate Jamal against him (4/4) (AD)

**10.00 ITV News at Ten**

**10.30 Regional News**

**10.45 Regional Programme**

**11.10 DNA Journey** *Britain's Got Talent* judge Amanda Holden and the comedian Alan Carr embark on journeys across the country as they delve into their family histories (2/3) (r) (AD)

**12.15am All Elite Wrestling: Rampage** Hard-hitting, high-flying wrestling action **1.10** Teleshopping **3.00** Love Your Garden. The team transform a firefighter's garden in Raunds (r) (AD, SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV. Daily escape **5.05-6.00** Family Fortunes. Gino D'Acampo hosts as the Arnebergs go up against the Firths (r) (SL)

### Channel 4
**7.00 Channel 4 News**

**8.00 24 Hours in A&E** A look back at some of the most memorable staff and patient stories filmed since 2011 at King's College Hospital and St George's in south London — places where life, love and loss unfold every day (AD)

**9.00 Taskmaster** Contenders Frankie Boyle, Ivo Graham, Jenny Eclair, Kiell Smith-Bynoe and Mae Martin continue to address the challenges set for them by Greg Davies. At this stage of the competition, it is no surprise that people find retrieving pineapples from a millpond stressful (8/10) (AD)

**10.00 Open House: The Great Sex Experiment** New series. Another group of curious committed couples explore the possibility of opening up their relationships with sexually liberated residents. Here, a couple want to bring another man into their relationship (1/8) (AD)

**11.10 Naked Attraction** Anna Richardson meets a 31-year-old mum of two from Melton Mowbray who is seeking her own superhero, and a 34 year-old from Plymouth who has recently left the Royal Marines enlists Anna's help in looking for Mrs Right (r) (AD)

**12.10am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (r) (SL) **1.00** The Simpsons (r) (AD) **1.25** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **2.15 FILM: Roman J Israel, Esq (12, 2018)** Crime drama (SL) **4.15** The Great British Dig: History in Your Back Garden (r) (AD) **5.05** Kirstie's House of Craft (r) **5.15-6.05** Moneybags (r)

### Channel 5
**7.00 Michael Portillo's Pyrenees Adventure** The presenter visits a young couple from Luxembourg who left city life behind to become pig farmers — he lends a hand feeding the pigs and samples some of the farm's delicacies (3/4) (r)

**7.55 5 News Update**

**8.00 Jane McDonald's Magical Morocco** The singer discovers the majestic continent of Africa, unearths the secrets hidden in the markets of Marrakech, and while shopping, she learns the art of haggling (/4)

**9.00 Alexander Armstrong in Sri Lanka** New series. The presenter heads for the paradise isle of the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka, discovering its golden sands and historic culture, beginning in the fortress town of Galle, which was built by the Portuguese in 1588. *See Viewing Guide* (1/3)

**10.00 Killer at the Crime Scene** A landlord discovers a foot poking out of his wheelie bin, outside a property that has just received an end-of-tenancy deep-clean that may have destroyed any evidence (10/12)

**11.05 Cause of Death** Coroners investigate the death of a man who had bought medicine online to protect himself from Covid-19 and try to determine if this contributed to his death (3/4) (r)

**12.05am Police Interceptors** The team pursue a car thief (r) **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Good Girls' Guide to Kinky Sex (r) **3.50** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) (AD) **4.35** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **4.55** House Doctor (r) (AD, SL) **5.20** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) (SL) **5.30** Pip and Posy (r) (SL) **5.35-6.00** Paw Patrol (r)

# television & radio

## Rolf Harris: Hiding in Plain Sight
ITVX

Knowing what we know now, the opening scene of this two-part documentary is sickening. On an episode of *Jim'll Fix It*, a girl has asked to watch Rolf Harris do "one of his paintings". "Do you think I may leave her in your charge?" Jimmy Savile asks. "Safely leave her in my capable hands," Harris replies. Savile was posthumously outed as a prolific paedophile; Harris spent time in prison for a string of indecent assaults on women and girls. This series tells the truth behind the rise and fall of a former national treasure.

## Alexander Armstrong in Sri Lanka
Channel 5, 9pm

Over the next three weeks, Alexander Armstrong is your discerning tour guide for a journey around Sri Lanka. He starts in Galle on the southwest coast and there are shades of Simon Reeve's travelogues as upbeat segments (yoga with a guru, making paper out of elephant poo, delivering bread as a choon paan man) are juxtaposed with more serious moments (the plight of captive elephants and the country's three million stray dogs). He even finds time for an exorcism that turns into a spectacular (and dangerous) ritual.

## Last King of the Cross
Sky Max/Now, 9pm

John Ibrahim is the son of Lebanese immigrants who rose from teenage bouncer to nightclub baron. Sydney's "playboy prince of darkness" was a target for rival gangs and dozens of police investigations, accused of being the "lifeblood of the drugs industry of Kings Cross". It is his memoir that has been adapted for this violent, muscular ten-part crime drama that vividly recreates the seedy Kings Cross strip of the Eighties and Nineties. Lincoln Younes stars as John, with Claude Jabbour as older brother Sam and Tim Roth as crime boss Ezra Shipman.

## Film Tea with Mussolini
BBC4, 9pm

In the director Franco Zeffirelli's portrait of expats in prewar Italy, a circle of friends played by Joan Plowright, Maggie Smith, Judi Dench and Cher invite Mussolini (Claudio Spadaro) for a chat to ascertain his intentions. (PG, 1999)

## Sky Max

**6.00am** Stargate SG-1 (r) **8.00** Supergirl (r) **9.00** Quantum Leap (r) **10.00** The Flash (r) **11.00** NCIS: New Orleans (r) **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **2.00** MacGyver (r) **3.00** Quantum Leap (r) **4.00** Supergirl (r) **5.00** The Flash (r)
**6.00** Stargate SG-1. Carter has doubts (r)
**7.00** Stargate SG-1. Part one of two. The team travels back in time to get ancient technology (r)
**8.00** Fast & Furious: Greatest Moments Refuelled. Fans' favourite moments (r)
**9.00** Last King of the Cross. New series. Fact-based Australian crime drama starring Lincoln Younes. *See Viewing Guide*
**10.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With Shaun Ryder, Bez and Desiree Burch (r) (AD)
**10.45** Fantasy Island. A percussionist wants to be accepted by her tight-knit Cuban family (r)
**11.45** Resident Alien. Harry and Asta attend an alien convention. Alan Tudyk stars (r) (AD)
**12.40am** NCIS: Los Angeles (r) **1.35** Road Wars. Vehicle crime (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** MacGyver (r) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r)

## Sky Atlantic

**6.00am** Urban Secrets (r) **7.00** The Wire (r) **9.25** True Blood (r) **11.35** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **12.40pm** Ray Donovan (r) (AD) **2.50** The Wire (r) **5.45** True Blood (r)
**6.50** True Blood. Alcide helps Sookie search for Eric, and Jason spots a chance to escape (r)
**7.55** Game of Thrones. The Hound is judged by the gods, while Jaime receives a different form of justice, and Robb is betrayed (r) (AD)
**9.00** Billions. Axe negotiates with a reluctant seller and Wendy makes a professional decision that adds further conflict to her relationship with Chuck (6/12) (r) (AD)
**10.10** Billions. Axe assembles a war room in the Hamptons following a disastrous setback, and seeks counsel on how to recoup his losses. Drama starring Damian Lewis (7/12) (r) (AD)
**11.20** Gangs of London. The truth about Finn's murder is finally revealed (r) (AD)
**12.25am** The L Word: Generation Q (r) (AD) **1.30** In Treatment (r) **2.00** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **3.05** Der Pass (r) **4.05** Urban Secrets (r)

## Sky Documentaries

**6.00am** Harrow: A Very British School (r) (AD) **7.00** Discovering: Peter Finch (r) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** The Sixties (r) (AD) **9.50** Hillary (r) (AD) **11.00** Escobar by Escobar (r) **12.00 FILM: Assassins (12, 2020)** Documentary **2.00pm FILM: Breslin and Hamill — Deadline Artists (12, 2018)** The story of Jimmy Breslin and Pete Hamill **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Peter Finch (r)
**6.00** The Sixties. The Vietnam War (r) (AD)
**6.50** Hillary (4/4) (r) (AD)
**8.00** Escobar by Escobar (3/4) (r)
**9.00** Natalie Wood: What Remains Behind. An insight into the movie star's life (r) (AD)
**11.00** Wework: How to Lose $30b in Two Weeks. The rise and fall of one of the biggest venture capitalist bubbles recently (r) (AD)
**1.00am FILM: I Am Evidence (PG, 2017)** Documentary (AD) **2.50** Homegrown: The Counter-Terror Dilemma (r) (AD) **4.40** My Icon: Tanni Grey Thompson (Pt1) (r) (AD) **5.00** Discovering: Peter Finch (r)

## Sky Arts

**6.00am** André Rieu: Welcome to My World **7.00** HMS Pinafore with ENO **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Jack Lemmon (AD) **12.00** Artist's Garden: American Impressionism **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **2.00** Laurie Lee: The Lost Interview (AD) **3.00** The Directors (AD) **4.00** Discovering: Claudette Colbert (AD) **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD)
**6.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents. Frank Partridge plots to cheat a life insurance company
**6.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents. A woman's mother goes missing from their hotel room
**7.00** Discovering: David Niven (AD)
**8.00** Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir
**9.00** The Directors. The life of James L Brooks
**10.00** Discovering Film: Horror Special
**11.30** Elvis Costello and the Imposters Live in Memphis. Concert recorded in 2004
**1.50am** The Michelangelo Code: Secrets of the Sistine Chapel **4.05** Backstage: Ralph Fiennes in Straight Line Crazy **5.05** Auction

## Sky Main Event

**6.00am** Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** The Football Show **12.00** Sky Sports News **1.00pm** Live PGA Championship Golf. Coverage of day one of the second Major of the year, which takes place at Oak Hill East Course in Rochester, New York
**7.00** Live Premier League: Newcastle United v Brighton & Hove Albion (Kick-off **7.30**). Coverage of the encounter from St James' Park, featuring two teams seeking to secure qualification for European football next season. The Magpies look set for a top four finish that would see them play in the Champions League, while the Seagulls are aiming for a Europa or Conference League position
**10.00** Live PGA Championship Golf. Coverage of day one of the second Major of the year, which takes place at Oak Hill East Course in Rochester, New York
**12.00** Sky Sports News. Round-up of the sports news. **2.00am** Live NBA Basketball. Coverage of a play-off match **4.30** Sky Sports News

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## TalkTV

**6.00am** James Max. An initial insight into the day's top stories **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show. A look at all the biggest stories to start the day **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. The host takes a look at the morning newspapers **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Hard-hitting monologues, stimulating debates and dedicated time for viewers' calls **4.00** Vanessa Feltz. The big stories of the day
**7.00** Jeremy Kyle. The straight-talking host takes on the issues that really matter
**8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored. The host presents his verdict on the day's global events with debate, straight-talking interviews with the world's leading figures, and plenty of fun
**9.00** The Talk. A panel of opinionated famous faces from the worlds of politics, showbiz, business and current affairs debate the latest topics everybody is talking about
**10.00** First Edition. An energetic look at tomorrow's newspapers
**11.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored
**12.00** James Whale **1.00am** Jeremy Kyle **2.00** Vanessa Feltz **3.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **4.00** The Talk **5.00** James Max

## BBC4

**7.00pm** The Sky at Night. The team explores the threat of an asteroid impact on Earth and meet space scientists who are developing methods of planetary defence fiction
**7.30** Railways: The Making of a Nation. Documentary examining how the railways changed the nation's economy
**8.00** A House Through Time. David Olusoga traces the history of an 18th-century sea captain's house in Bristol, which was originally built and lived in by prolific slave traders (1/4)
**9.00 FILM: Tea with Mussolini (PG, 1999)** English and American women living in Florence in the 1930s adopt a boy disowned by his father. Comedy drama with Maggie Smith and Judi Dench. *See Viewing Guide*
**10.50 FILM: Summer Holiday (U, 1963)** Four mechanics set off on a trip across Europe on board a double-decker bus, but an unexpected stowaway causes a few surprises. Musical comedy with Cliff Richard and Una Stubbs
**12.35am** Mark Kermode's Secrets of Cinema: Pop Music Movies. The critic examines the genre **1.35** Paul Merson: A Walk Through My Life **2.35-3.35** A House Through Time (SL)

## Talking Pictures

**6.00am** Honey West (b/w) **6.30 FILM: The Ghost Camera (U, 1933)** (b/w) **7.50 FILM: The Body Vanished (PG, 1939)** (b/w) **8.50** My Job **9.00** Black Saddle (b/w) **9.30 FILM: Delayed Flight (U, 1964)** (b/w) **10.45 FILM: The Voice of Merrill (PG, 1952)** Murder mystery starring James Robertson Justice (b/w) **12.25pm FILM: Summertime (U, 1955)** Romantic drama with Katharine Hepburn and Rossano Brazzi **2.20** Look at Life **2.30** Crown Court **3.00 FILM: The Lone Wolf Meets a Lady (PG, 1940)** Crime caper starring Warren William (b/w) **4.30 FILM: The Third Alibi (PG, 1961)** Thriller with Laurence Payne (b/w)
**5.50 FILM: Where No Vultures Fly (U, 1951)** Fact-based drama starring Anthony Steel
**8.00** The Saint. Simon helps a farmer
**9.00** Justice. A couple waste the Court's time
**10.00 FILM: Stop Me Before I Kill! (18, 1960)** Thriller starring Ronald Lewis (b/w)
**12.00 FILM: Where Has Poor Mickey Gone? (18, 1964)** Fantasy (b/w) **1.10am FILM: Hammerhead (PG, 1968) 3.10 FILM: The Frogmen (U, 1951)** (b/w) **5.10 FILM: Big Ben Calling (U, 1935)** Musical (b/w)

## Film4

**11.00am Three Hours to Kill (PG, 1954)** Western starring Dana Andrews **12.35pm Comanche Station (PG, 1960)** Western with Randolph Scott **2.10 High Noon (U, 1952)** Western starring Gary Cooper (b/w) (AD) **3.55 Cutthroat Island (PG, 1995)** Swashbuckling adventure starring Geena Davis (AD)
**6.15 Bridge of Spies (12, 2015)** A lawyer is hired to defend a Soviet spy, an assignment that leads to a prisoner exchange. Steven Spielberg's fact-based Cold War drama with Tom Hanks (AD)
**9.00 The Book of Eli (15, 2010)** A drifter in post-apocalyptic America battles a despot for control of a book believed to hold the key to mankind's future. Action adventure starring Denzel Washington and Gary Oldman
**11.15 Death Proof (18, 2007)** A psychopath uses his specially modified car to hunt down and kill women. Quentin Tarantino's thriller starring Kurt Russell and Rosario Dawson
**1.30am-3.50 Barking Dogs Never Bite (15, 2000)** A maintenance worker decides to investigate the mysterious demise of several dogs. Dark comedy starring Lee Sung-jae. In Korean with English subtitles

## More4

**8.55am** Kirstie's House of Craft **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **3.10** Four in a Bed. Five editions **5.50** Come Dine with Me: The Professionals. Restaurateurs compete in and around Newcastle
**6.55** Escape to the Château: DIY. A recent storm leaves a castle keep in need of repairs (AD)
**7.55** Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the restoration and transformation of a 100-year-old blacksmiths in Co Antrim (5/9) (AD)
**9.00** George Clarke's Remarkable Renovations. The architect follows people as they transform former commercial properties (1/6) (AD)
**10.00** 24 Hours in A&E. A moped delivery man, 24, is rushed to A&E after an accident involving a police car chasing another vehicle (AD)
**11.05** Emergency Helicopter Medics. A head-on car accident in Cumbria leaves a man's life hanging in the balance and East Anglian heli-meds land on a roundabout island to help a rider who has come off his motorbike (AD)
**12.05am** Shocking Emergency Calls (AD) **1.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.20-3.50** A Place in the Sun

## ITV2

**6.00am** World's Funniest Videos **6.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (SL) **7.00** Dress to Impress (SL) **8.00** One Tree Hill **9.00** Dawson's Creek **10.00** Secret Crush **11.00** Dress to Impress **12.00** Celebrity Dinner Date (AD) **1.00pm** Family Fortunes **2.00** Chuck **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Celebrity Dinner Date. Dating show (AD)
**6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase (AD)
**7.00** Superstore (AD)
**7.30** Superstore (AD)
**8.00** Bob's Burgers (AD)
**8.30** Bob's Burgers (AD)
**9.00** Gordon, Gino and Fred: European Road Trip. Culinary adventure with Gordon Ramsay, Gino D'Acampo and Fred Sirieix (AD)
**10.00** Family Guy (AD)
**10.30** Family Guy (AD)
**11.00** Family Guy (AD)
**11.30** American Dad! (AD)
**12.00** American Dad! (AD) **12.30am** Bob's Burgers (AD) **1.25** Superstore (AD) **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

## ITV3

**6.00am** Classic Emmerdale **7.05** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.10** Never the Twain **9.20** Wild at Heart (AD) **11.30** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.45** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.50** Foyle's War (AD)
**6.00** Heartbeat. Mike reunites an estranged family while investigating a puzzling spate of burglaries, and Ventress knows exactly how to stop Greengrass in his tracks (AD)
**7.00** Heartbeat. An ex-convict Blaketon helped put behind bars arrives at the pub, and Greengrass acts as pawnbroker to a pampered youth, only to land in trouble with the law (AD)
**8.00** Vera. The detective investigates the death of a school teacher, and it quickly becomes a murder case when she discovers evidence the body has been tampered with (4/6) (AD)
**10.00** Wire in the Blood. The suffocation of an elderly woman proves the prelude to a string of similar killings, and makes Tony wonder whether a respected psychologist was involved (4/5)
**12.05am** Wild at Heart. Danny proposes to Alice (AD) **2.20** Unwind with ITV **2.30** Teleshopping. Buying goods from home

## ITV4

**6.00am** Minder (AD, SL) **7.00** The Professionals (AD, SL) **8.00** The Champions **9.05** The Return of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **10.15** Magnum, PI **11.15** The Champions **12.25pm** The Return of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **1.30** Live ITV Racing From York Dante Festival. Coverage of day two of the festival **4.30** Giant Lobster Hunters
**5.30** English Football League Highlights
**6.30** Made in Britain. A look at craftsmen making acoustic guitars fit for the stars (AD)
**7.00** BattleBots. Icewave and Skorpios vie
**8.00** The Great British Treasure Hunt. Henry Cole takes five teams of metal detectorists to Somerleyton in Suffolk for round three
**9.00 FILM: Licence to Kill (15, 1989)** James Bond plans revenge on a ruthless drug baron. Spy thriller starring Timothy Dalton (AD)
**11.45 FILM: Maximum Conviction (15, 2012)** Two special forces agents transporting a pair of female convicts to prison come under attack from mercenaries. Action adventure with Steven Seagal and Steve Austin (AD)
**1.50am** The Professionals (AD, SL) **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

## Drama

**6.00am** Teleshopping **7.10** Birds of a Feather **7.55** May to December **8.35** Just Good Friends **9.15** Classic Holby City **10.35** Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** Tenko **3.00** Lovejoy **4.10** Peak Practice **5.20** May to December **6.00** Just Good Friends
**6.40** Last of the Summer Wine
**7.20** Last of the Summer Wine. Clegg and Truly offer to collect music for Tom
**8.00** Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators. When a role-playing battle in the woods goes wrong, Lu and Frank must clear the queen's name and catch the culprit (AD)
**9.00** Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators. Frank Hathaway and Luella Shakespeare investigate the disappearance of an Eastern European oligarch (AD)
**10.00** New Tricks. Part two of two. The team comes closer to solving the Gibraltar murders. Starring Amanda Redman (2/10) (AD)
**11.20** Silent Witness. Sam investigates the murder of an estate agent in a house (AD)
**1.25am** Happy Valley. Crime drama (AD) **2.35** Classic Holby City (SL) **4.00** Teleshopping

## Yesterday

**6.10am** Secrets of Britain **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **9.00** World War Weird **10.00** World War Two From Above **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys Goes to Ireland **12.30pm** Great British Railway Journeys **2.00** Bangers and Cash **4.00** World War Weird **5.00** World War Two From Above. Key sites across the former Third Reich
**6.00** Great British Railway Journeys Goes to Ireland. Michael Portillo heads to Westport
**6.30** Great British Railway Journeys
**7.00** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain (4/6)
**7.30** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain (5/6)
**8.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics. A 1992 Vauxhall Nova Merit Plus (AD)
**9.00** Classic Car Garage. Colin tries to help a 1978 Austin Allegro's owner (AD)
**10.00** Bangers and Cash. A couple are reunited with their Volvo breakdown truck (8/10)
**11.00** Abandoned Engineering (6/11) (AD)
**12.00** Great British Railway Journeys Goes to Ireland **12.30am** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00** Secrets of Britain **2.00** Forbidden History (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

## Variations

**BBC1 N Ireland**
As BBC1 except: **10.40pm** The View. Mark Carruthers presents **11.20** Question Time **12.20am** Newscast **12.50-6.00** BBC News

**BBC1 Scotland**
As BBC1 except: **11.15am** Bargain Hunt **12.00-1.00pm** Scottish First Minister's Questions **7.00-7.30** River City (r)

**ITV1 Anglia**
As ITV1 except: **10.45pm-11.10** Anglia Late Edition. Emma Hutchinson reports

**ITV1 Border**
As ITV1 except: **10.45pm-11.10** Around the House. Political discussion with Paul Brand

**ITV1 Central**
As ITV1 except: **10.45pm-11.10** Central Lobby. Alison Mackenzie hosts

**ITV1 Granada**
As ITV1 except: **10.45pm-11.10** The Granada Debate. Political debate with Alison Mackenzie

**ITV1 London**
As ITV1 except: **10.45pm-11.10** The Late Debate. News and events at Westminster

**ITV1 Meridian**
As ITV1 except: **10.45pm-11.10** The Last Word. Presented by Phil Hornby

**ITV1 Tyne Tees**
As ITV1 except: **10.45pm-11.10** Around the House. Political discussion with Paul Brand

**ITV1 Wales**
As ITV1 except: **10.45pm** Love Your Garden (r) (AD) **11.40** Fishlock's Choice (r) **12.05am-12.15** The Best of the 80s (r)

**ITV1 West & Westcountry**
As ITV1 except: **10.45pm-11.10** The Westcountry Debate

**ITV1 Yorkshire**
As ITV1 except: **10.45pm-11.10** Last Orders

**STV**
As ITV1 except: **8.30pm-9.00** Scotland Tonight **10.45** All-Inclusive Holidays: Unpacked — Tonight **11.10** Robson and Jim's Fly-Fishing Adventure (r) **12.05am-3.00** Teleshopping **3.50-5.05** Night Vision

**UTV**
As ITV1 except: **10.45pm** Love Your Garden (AD) **11.40** Rare Breed — A Farming Year (r) **12.05am-12.15** The Best of the 80s (r)

**BBC Scotland**
**7.00pm** The Great Food Guys (r) (AD) **7.30** Scotland's Home of the Year (r) **8.00** Beechgrove Garden **8.30** Landward **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Scot Squad (r) (AD) **10.30** Anton Danyluk on Body Shame (AD) **11.00-12.00** Trawlermen: Hunting the Catch (r) (AD)

**BBC Alba**
**6.00am** Alba Today **5.00pm** Piseag & Cuilean (r) **5.05** Sionnach agus Maigheach (r) **5.20** Shane an Chef (r) **5.30** O scar & Ealasaid (r) **5.45** Su Pic (r) **5.50** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** An Saoghal Droil aig Pol Ploc (r) **6.15** Dubhlain CBBC Alba (r) **6.20** A-null 's a-nall (r) **6.35** Stri (r) **6.45** Triuir aig Tri (r) **7.00** Vets: Gach Creutair Beo (r) **7.30** SpeakGaelic (r) **8.00** An Là **8.30** Miann na Maighdinn-mara (r) **9.00** Sruth (r) **10.00** Na Millenni-Gaels (r) **10.30** Ameireaga agus an t-Olocost **11.20** FUNC (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

**S4C**
**6.00am** Cyw **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Natur a Ni (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Ralio+ (r) **1.30** Gareth! (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Ty am Ddim (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh: Y Brodyr Adrenalini (r) **5.10** Rhyfeddodau Chwilengoch a Cath Ddu (r) **5.35** Gwrach y Rhibyn (r) **5.55** Ffeil **6.00** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **6.30** Ein Llwybrau Celtaidd (r) **6.57** News; Weather **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Pobol y Cwm (AD) **8.25** Rownd a Rownd (AD) **8.55** News **9.00** Y Byd yn ei Le **9.45** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia **10.30** Iaith ar Daith (r) (AD) **11.30-12.05am** Ffilmiau Ddoe (r)

# MindGames

## Tetonor Tricky No 362

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 70 | 54 | 268 | 37 |
| 38 | 71 | 18 | 297 |
| 102 | 17 | 72 | 43 |
| 21 | 245 | 42 | 280 |

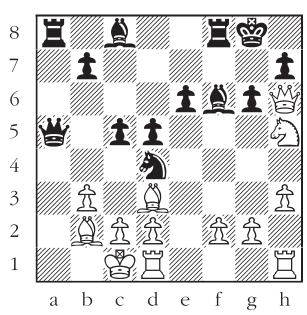
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 8 | | | | | 35 | | | |

When complete, the strip below the grid can be split into eight pairs of numbers. Adding the numbers in a pair gives one of the 16 numbers in the grid. Multiplying them gives a different number in the grid. For example, a 4 and 6 in the strip could be paired to make 10 (4+6) and 24 (4x6) in the grid. Enter each sum below the corresponding number in the grid. The blanks in the strip must be deduced, bearing in mind the numbers are listed in ascending order.

*The next Tetonor puzzle will appear on Tuesday*

For more puzzles, including Mini Sudoku, extra Codeword, Train Tracks and Futoshiki
go to page 10

## Winning Move




**Black to play.**
This position is from Reprintsev-Drygalov, Titled Tuesday, chess.com 2023.

The development of a bishop on the long diagonal (b2 or g2 for White, b7 or g7 for Black) is known as a fianchetto. Such a piece can provide protection for the king while also creating pressure on the long diagonal. Here Black's f6-bishop (originally fianchettoed) is the key piece. How did it help him finish off?

## Codeword No 4904

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | 9 | 26 | 15 | 24 | 8 | 12 | 4 | ■ | 16 | 20 | 19 | 26 |
| 24 | ■ | 24 | ■ | 23 | ■ | 13 | ■ | 2 | ■ | 8 | ■ | 8 |
| 17 | 22 | 11 | 22 | 13 | 9 | 17 | ■ | 10 | 8 | 21 | 8 | 16 |
| 17 | ■ | 13 | ■ | 12 | ■ | 24 | ■ | 19 | ■ | 7 | ■ | 6 |
| 25 | 19 | 4 | 18 | 13 | ■ | 12 | 8 | 21 | 1 | 8 | 16 | ■ |
| 13 | ■ | ■ | ■ | 14 | ■ | 21 | ■ | 16 | ■ | 9 | ■ | 8 |
| 9 | 25 | 12 R | 8 U | 1 P | 6 | ■ | 1 | 19 | 16 | 6 | 24 | 4 |
| 6 | ■ | 10 | ■ | 24 | ■ | 1 | ■ | 3 | ■ | ■ | ■ | 17 |
| ■ | 17 | 24 | 16 | 16 | 19 | 22 | ■ | 9 | 24 | 12 | 6 | 9 |
| 16 | ■ | 21 | ■ | 8 | ■ | 13 | ■ | 22 | ■ | 13 | ■ | 5 |
| 6 | 9 | 25 | 24 | 12 | ■ | 26 | 12 | 19 | 25 | 25 | 22 | 13 |
| 9 | ■ | 8 | ■ | 13 | ■ | 18 | ■ | 6 | ■ | 13 | ■ | 26 |
| 12 | 19 | 16 | 20 | ■ | 12 | 13 | 3 | 11 | 3 | 22 | 13 | ■ |

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O ~~P~~ Q ~~R~~ S T ~~U~~ V W X Y Z

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 P | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 U | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 R | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |

Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution, right*

**Cluelines Stuck on Codeword?** To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

## Lexica No 6877 No 6878

No 6877

Top: ● U E L U S
Left: B ● B L N K
Right: C O A O Y ●
Bottom: A L A ● C H

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| ■ | □ | ■ | □ | ■ | ■ |
| □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| ■ | □ | ■ | □ | ■ | □ |
| ■ | □ | ■ | ■ | ■ | □ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | □ |

No 6878

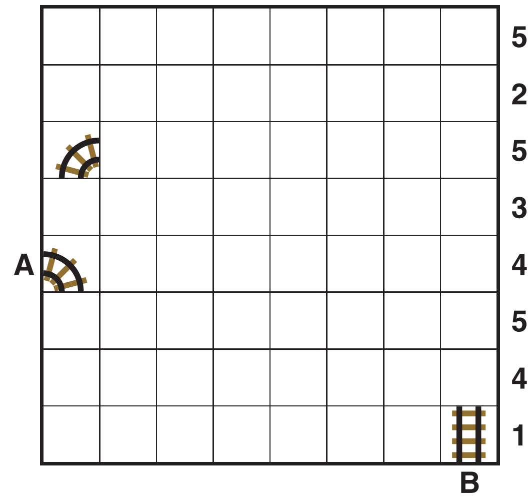
Top: M I I T L ●
Left: G E I E E N
Right: ● R H R R D
Bottom: K O S G U E

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| □ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| □ | □ | □ | □ | ■ | ■ |
| □ | ■ | □ | ■ | □ | ■ |
| □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| ■ | ■ | □ | ■ | □ | ■ |
| □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |

Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

## Train Tracks No 1940

Column numbers: 4 5 4 3 1 1 3 8
Row numbers: 5 2 5 3 4 5 4 1




Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

## Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

**1** Lad outside a large beauty parlour (5)

_ _ _ _ _

**2** King lacking firmness relating to warning signal (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

**3** Some pink lingerie may cause suspicion (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

**4** Main deity's heavenly body (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

**5** Deputy head, maybe, punished cheater (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | A | A | C | E | E | E | E |
| G | H | I | I | K | K | L | L |
| L | N | N | N | N | N | N | O |
| O | P | R | S | T | T | U | X |

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Email: puzzles@thetimes.co.uk

## KenKen Difficult No 5896

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2÷ | | 144× | 12+ | | |
| 12+ | 4− | | | 12+ | 1− |
| | | 15× | | | |
| | 2− | | 8+ | | 13+ |
| 120× | | | | 5+ | |
| | | 4− | | | |

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All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

## Futoshiki No 4479

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| □ | | □ | | □ | < | □ | > | □ |
| | | | | | | | | |
| □ | | □ | | □ | | □ | | 3 |
| ∨ | | | | | | | | |
| □ | | 3 | > | □ | | □ | | □ |
| | | | | | | | | |
| □ | | □ | < | □ | < | □ | | □ |
| ∧ | | | | | | | | ∧ |
| □ | | □ | | □ | | □ | | □ |

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

## Kakuro No 3438

(clue cells shown as down\across)

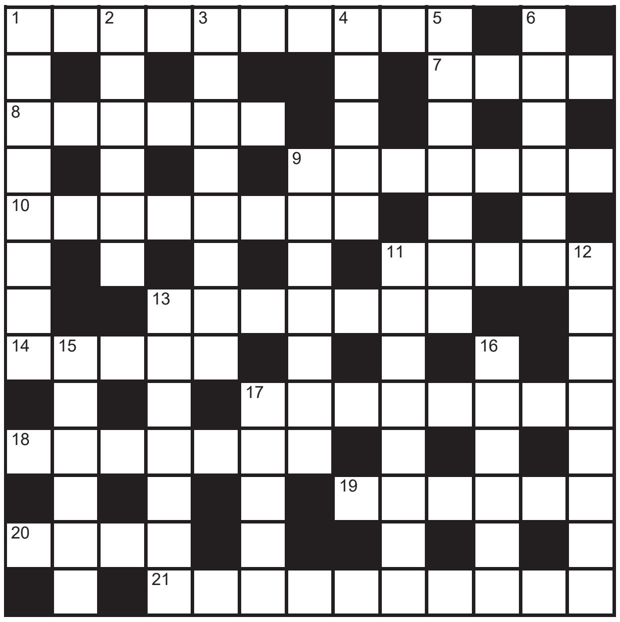
| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| \ | \ | 22\ | 17\ | 34\ | \ | 9\ | 10\ | 4\ | 29\ | 7\ |
| \ | 16\24 | | | | \15 | | | | | |
| \27 | | | | | 6\16 | | | | | |
| \17 | | | 20\13 | | | | \ | 28\4 | | |
| \ | 13\ | 28\19 | | | | \ | 26\16 | | | 4\ |
| \28 | | | | | | 7\25 | | | | |
| \11 | | | | | \30 | | | | | |
| \ | 12\7 | | | \ | 11\7 | | | | 6\ | 6\ |
| \16 | | | 16\ | 17\9 | | | | 4\4 | | |
| \24 | | | | | | \11 | | | | |
| \22 | | | | | | \7 | | | | \ |

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Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

# MindGames

## times2 Crossword No 9220



**Across**
1 Extra (10)
7 In the centre of (4)
8 Sample, preview (6)
9 Canadian city (7)
10 Army rank directly below sergeant (8)
11 Fierce mammal (5)
13 Like a comb or cog, eg (7)
14 Cavalry sword (5)
17 Variety of apple (8)
18 Large-billed bird (7)
19 Germinate (6)
20 Hint (4)
21 Widely acknowledged (10)

**Down**
1 Items (8)
2 Deprive of weaponry (6)
3 In direct competition (3-2-3)
4 Of seagoing forces (5)
5 Disinclined to exert oneself (7)
6 Puncture (6)
9 Workplace cafeteria (7)
11 Shelled reptile (8)
12 Brought together again (8)
13 Sports shoe (7)
15 Ancient (3-3)
16 Renowned (6)
17 Sudden sense of alarm (5)

**Solution to Crossword 9219**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | R | O | C | K | P | I | P | I | T | | B | |
| | E | | H | | A | | O | | U | S | E | S |
| A | C | H | I | L | L | E | S | | R | | M | |
| | O | | N | | | | T | E | N | D | O | N |
| H | I | D | E | | C | | H | | T | | A | |
| | L | | S | T | O | M | A | C | H | I | N | G |
| | | | E | | N | | S | | E | | | |
| C | O | U | P | S | D | E | T | A | T | | H | |
| | B | | U | | E | | E | | A | V | O | N |
| F | R | O | Z | E | N | | | | B | | M | |
| | I | | Z | | S | H | O | U | L | D | E | R |
| W | E | L | L | | E | | W | | E | | L | |
| | N | | E | N | D | L | E | S | S | L | Y | |

**Need help with today's puzzle?** Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

## Bridge Andrew Robson

It's not that often you face a crucial decision in the bidding with only one high-card point. But take West's hand on today's deal from the penultimate round of the Open Swiss at 4th European Winter Games from Tignes, France.

On best defence, 5♦ (doubled?) is two down, while 4♠ (doubled) has no play. Bidding 5♦, as did Jakub Patreuha of Poland, appears to be a costly mistake. However, he escaped a double and, through a combination of soft defence and accurate play, restricted his losses.

North led the ace of spades and South signalled violently with the king. Given dummy had no more spades, this was surely a suit preference signal for hearts. A heart switch to the jack, followed by the ace of hearts then a second spade, would have ensured North's queen of diamonds scored: down two.

In practice, North continued with a second spade (to promote his queen of diamonds). Declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed only one top diamond then played ace-king-queen of clubs, discarding one heart as South discarded. Declarer ruffed a fourth club, crossed to the second top diamond and led the fifth club, discarding a second heart as North ruffed (with the queen). Only one heart was lost from here, a mere one down and +100 to North-South.

Mind you, with 4♠ no play, one down in 5♦ looked like a loss. However, at the other table, Patreuha's Polish teammate Piotr Marcinowski took advantage of a small misdefence to make 4♠ doubled: watch.

Dealer: West, Vulnerability: East-West

Teams — Advanced

North: ♠ A92 ♥ Q42 ♦ Q86 ♣ J832
West: ♠ 76 ♥ 876 ♦ J109542 ♣ 109
East: ♠ 3 ♥ K1093 ♦ AK3 ♣ AKQ65
South: ♠ KQJ10854 ♥ AJ5 ♦ 7 ♣ 74

| S | W | N | E |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Pass | Pass | 1♣ |
| 4♠ | Pass | Pass | Dbl(1) |
| Pass | 5♦/Pass? End | | |

(1) Take-out (even at this high level) but, in practice, frequently converted into penalties.

Table One
Contract: 5♦ by W, Opening Lead: ♦A

Table Two
Contract: 4♠ Dbled by S, Opening Lead: ♣10

West led the ten of clubs, which held, followed by a second club. East won the queen and would have been well-advised to cash a top diamond. However, he instead led a third (high) club.

Declarer ruffed, crossed to dummy in spades, led a heart to the jack and ran all his spades. East had to reduce to ♥K10 and ♦A but at trick 11, declarer exited with a diamond to East, forcing him to lead a heart. Declarer ran East's ten of hearts to the queen and scored the last trick, his tenth, with his ace, beating East's king.

And so it was that Patreuha's one-point 5♦ bid netted ten imps.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

## Brain Trainer

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EASY 28 | −12 | x 8 | 3/4 OF IT | +46 | x 5 | 3/10 OF IT | −171 | ÷7 | CUBE IT | ANSWER |
| MEDIUM 110 | ÷5 | x 8 | +14 | x 3 | +6 | −2/3 OF IT | HALF OF IT | ÷8 | +20 | ANSWER |
| HARDER 26 | +6 | +5/8 OF IT | TRIPLE IT | +30 | x 4 | +1/3 OF IT | +7 | ÷37 | −1 | ANSWER |

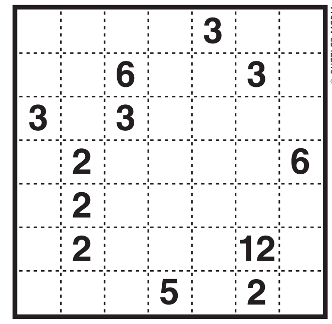
## Polygon



From these letters, make words of **four** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
**How you rate** 12 words, average; 17, good; 21, very good; 26, excellent

**Yesterday's answers**
**doorpost, doorstop**, dorp, droop, drop, oops, poor, port, post, potoo, prod, spod, spoor, sport, spot, stoop, stop, strop, topo, topos, tops, troop

## Cell Blocks No 4787



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

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## Set Square No 3441

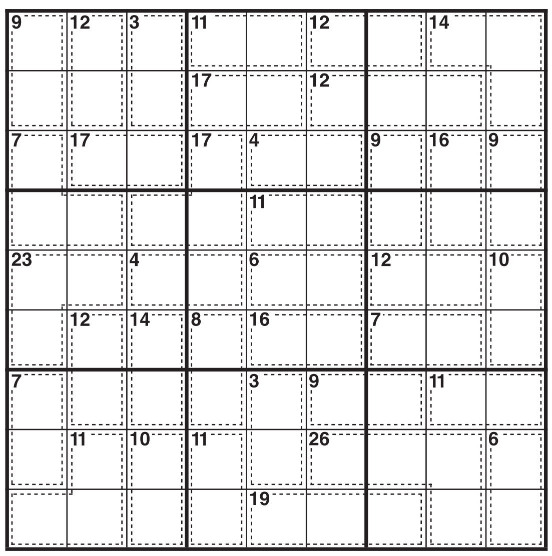
| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | × | | + | | = 15 |
| × | | + | | − | |
| 5 | × | | − | 3 | = 37 |
| + | | − | | + | |
| | − | | + | | = 5 |
| = 32 | | = 5 | | = 13 | |

Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

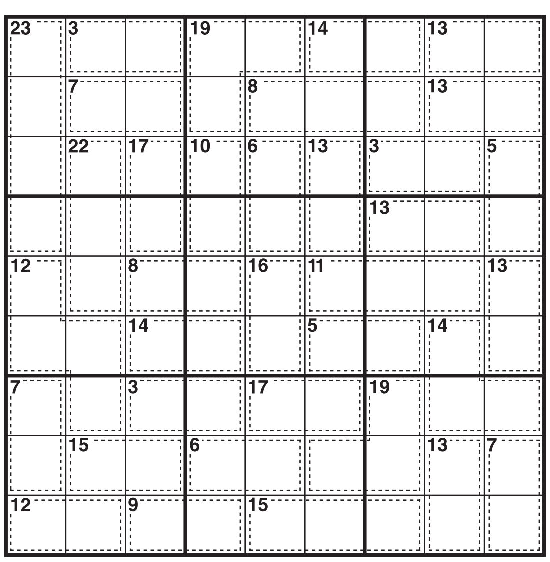
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Please note, BODMAS does not apply

## Killer Gentle No 8881



## Killer Tough No 8882



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

**Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen?** Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

## Solutions

**Quick Cryptic 2397**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | S | S | I | S | T | | O | C | E | L | O | T |
| C | | O | | P | | | | H | | E | | I |
| C | O | M | M | E | R | C | I | A | L | I | S | M |
| E | | E | | L | | O | | R | | | | B |
| P | E | T | A | L | | N | E | I | T | H | E | R |
| T | | I | | | | T | | O | | E | | E |
| | | M | O | D | E | R | A | T | O | R | | |
| R | | E | | I | | A | | | | B | | S |
| I | N | S | T | A | L | L | | S | T | A | R | E |
| D | | | | M | | T | | H | | L | | A |
| D | I | S | C | O | L | O | R | A | T | I | O | N |
| E | | O | | N | | | | W | | S | | C |
| N | O | B | O | D | Y | | C | L | O | T | H | E |

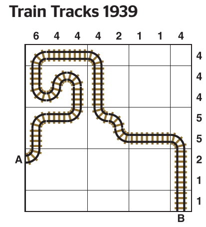
**Codeword 4903**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | U | S | T | I | F | Y | | C | R | E | S | S |
| A | | M | | N | | A | | U | | X | | H |
| W | H | A | R | F | | R | E | L | I | E | V | E |
| L | | L | | U | | R | | L | | C | | E |
| I | L | L | U | S | I | O | N | | Q | U | I | T |
| N | | | | I | | W | | A | | T | | |
| E | M | P | L | O | Y | | A | S | L | E | E | P |
| | | R | | N | | R | | B | | | | A |
| M | E | E | T | | S | E | V | E | R | I | T | Y |
| I | | T | | G | | G | | S | | G | | M |
| M | A | Z | U | R | K | A | | T | I | L | D | E |
| I | | E | | I | | R | | O | | O | | N |
| C | O | L | O | N | | D | I | S | T | O | R | T |

**Kakuro 3437**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 4 | 1 | 2 | | 4 | 9 | | 7 | 3 |
| 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 1 | | 3 | 2 | 1 | | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| | 7 | 9 | 8 | | 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| | | 7 | 9 | | 8 | 9 | | 3 | 1 |
| 1 | 3 | | 7 | 9 | | 8 | 9 | | |
| 9 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 5 | | 5 | 7 | 3 | |
| 8 | 9 | 6 | | 8 | 7 | 6 | | 1 | 5 |
| 6 | 8 | | 8 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 3 | 4 | |

**Train Tracks 1939**



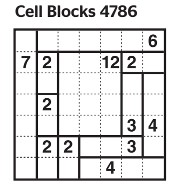
**Sudoku 14,047**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| 7 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 |
| 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| 6 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 1 |
| 8 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 2 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 6 |

**Sudoku 14,048**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| 2 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 9 |
| 5 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 9 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 3 |
| 6 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 6 |

**Cell Blocks 4786**



**Set Square 3440**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | × | 1 | × | 7 |
| + | | × | | × |
| 9 | − | 4 | − | 2 |
| × | | × | | − |
| 5 | × | 6 | + | 8 |

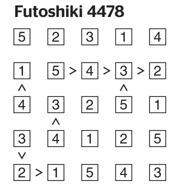
**Lexica 6875**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | I | G | I | D | |
| A | | R | | | |
| N | | I | T | E | M |
| D | E | N | | | O |
| Y | | D | | | O |
| | | | | | R |

**Sudoku 14,049**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 6 |
| 8 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| 5 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 2 |
| 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 1 |
| 6 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 |
| 7 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 |

**Futoshiki 4478**



**KenKen 5895**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 1 |

**Lexica 6876**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | P | O | N | G | E |
| | O | | U | | |
| M | O | U | N | D | |
| | L | | | U | |
| | | | | K | |
| D | E | A | L | E | R |

**Killer 8879**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 4 |
| 8 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 2 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| 5 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 6 |
| 4 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| 7 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 3 |

**Killer 8880**

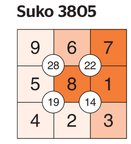
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 3 |
| 1 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 |
| 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| 5 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| 2 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| 9 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 2 |
| 3 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 5 |

### Today's solutions

**Concise Quintagram**
1 Six
2 Wicked
3 *Matilda*
4 Waitress
5 Hamilton

**Cryptic Quintagram**
1 Salon
2 Klaxon
3 Inkling
4 Neptune
5 Teacher

**Suko 3805**



**Brain Trainer**
Easy 216
Medium 32
Harder 26

**Word watch**

**Dronkverdriet** (a) Maudlin when inebriated (*Collins*)
**Lippitude** (c) Soreness of the eyes (*Chambers*)
**Hodad** (c) One falsely boasting of surfing exploits (*OED*)

**Chess — Winning Move**

1 ... Ne2+! 2 Bxe2 Qa1+! 3 Bxa1 Rxa1 is mate. Reversing moves with 1 ... Qa1+! 2 Bxa1 Ne2+ also works

**Quiz**

**1** Advocate **2** Anne Robinson **3** Merlin **4** Then Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer **5** Lebanon **6** Ligaments **7** Atlantic City **8** Frederick the Great or Frederick II **9** Jon Ronson **10** Dolly Varden trout **11** The Sultans of Ping FC. The name is a play on the song title *Sultans of Swing* **12** *Frank* **13** Sharon Zukin **14** Tom Kristensen **15** Sergei Rachmaninoff

THE TIMES

# MindGames

18.05.23

For extra puzzles See page 10

## Word watch
David Parfitt

**Dronkverdriet**
**a** Maudlin when inebriated
**b** A wrongful prison sentence
**c** An area of lush greenery

**Lippitude**
**a** Plumpness
**b** Tenacity
**c** Soreness of the eyes

**Hodad**
**a** A country music gathering
**b** A group of sixteen items
**c** One falsely boasting of surfing exploits

*Answers on page 15*

## Sudoku

### Mild No 14,050

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | 3 | | 5 | | | | |
| | | 5 | | 9 | 6 | 1 | | 2 |
| 5 | | | 6 | | | 9 | 2 | |
| | | | | 2 | | | 6 | 5 |
| 6 | | | 5 | | | 3 | 4 | |
| | | 4 | | 7 | 2 | 8 | | 9 |
| 3 | | 8 | | 4 | | | | |
| | 9 | | | | | | | |

### Fiendish No 14,051

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 2 | | | | 6 | |
| | 2 | 8 | 3 | | | | | |
| | 3 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 3 | 5 | | | 6 | | | | 8 |
| | | | 9 | | | 6 | | |
| | | | | | 5 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| | | | | 3 | 8 | | 9 | |
| 9 | | | | | 1 | 4 | | 2 |
| | | | 6 | | 2 | | 1 | |

### Super fiendish No 14,052

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | | | | | 4 | | | 5 |
| 7 | | 6 | 2 | 3 | | | | |
| | | 4 | | | 3 | | 2 | 6 |
| | | | | 4 | 1 | | | |
| | | 5 | | | 2 | | 8 | 7 |
| 2 | | 3 | 9 | 5 | | | | |
| | | | | | 8 | | | 9 |
| | | | | | | | 7 | |

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

## The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

**1** Someone arguing a contrary opinion, even if they don't believe in it, is playing devil's ... what?

**2** Which host of *The Weakest Link* wrote the book *Memoirs of an Unfit Mother* (2001)?

**3** Brocéliande Forest, aka Paimpont Forest, in Brittany is associated with the tomb of which legendary wizard?

**4** In 1981, Lady Sarah McCorquodale said of which couple: "I introduced them. I'm Cupid"?

**5** In which country was Terry Waite held captive for 1,763 days?

**6** Desmology is the study of which tough, elastic bands of tissue that connect bones?

**7** Enoch "Nucky" Johnson (1883-1968) was a crime boss in which New Jersey resort city?

**8** In an 1852 painting by Adolph Menzel, which king of Prussia is *Playing the Flute at Sanssouci?*

**9** Which British journalist wrote the 2004 book *The Men Who Stare at Goats?*

**10** Which common name of the fish *Salvelinus malma* comes from a female character in Dickens' *Barnaby Rudge?*

**11** Deriving their name from a Dire Straits song, which Irish band released the 1992 single *Where's Me Jumper?*

**12** Which 2014 film features performances of *Secure the Galactic Perimeter* and *I Love You All* by the Soronprfbs?

**13** Which American sociologist wrote the 1982 book *Loft Living: Culture and Capital in Urban Change?*

**14** Retiring in 2014, which Danish driver won the 24 Hours of Le Mans a record nine times?

**15** Which Russian composer and virtuoso pianist is pictured?

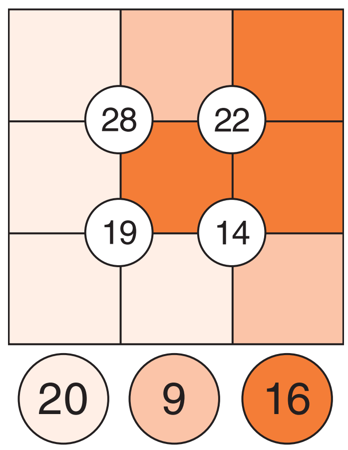
HULTON DEUTSCH/GETTY IMAGES



15

*Answers on page 15*

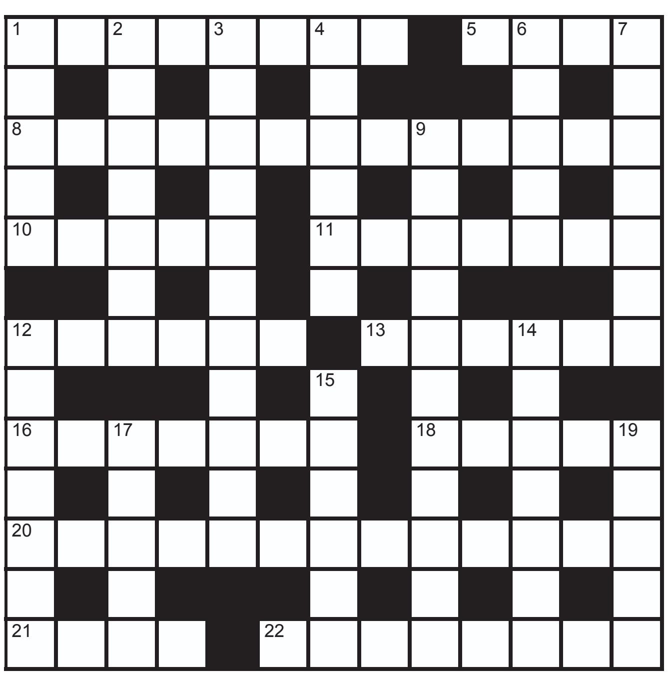
## Suko
No 3805




Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

**For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk**

## The Times Quick Cryptic
No 2398 by Hurley



**Across**
1 A curious crest in New York shows family lineage (8)
5 Racing driver's modus operandi's singular (4)
8 Not fitting in pocket? (13)
10 Go into middle of America when leader leaves (5)
11 Take out former partner — right to fit in diplomacy (7)
12 Impressive entrance in Southampton, say, by a Liberal (6)
13 Salesperson with attitude? Remedy found (6)
16 Blackguard, horribly unfair, interrupted by female (7)
18 Come together from a Church service (5)
20 Shiny shell layer in redesigned porthole frame (6-2-5)
21 Lecturer, English, finished (4)
22 One choosing area of economy, the French having been accepted (8)

**Down**
1 Put up with assistant bringing book in (5)
2 Ship mat (7)
3 Outstanding — funniest or most comical, for example (11)
4 Start again after closure referring to old writer (6)
6 Roam pathway regularly in city (5)
7 Clothing seen in southwest diner (7)
9 Free paper lent to model employee? Far from it! (6,5)
12 Wood pile, never ending, at heart of historic building (7)
14 Determined worker following first man (7)
15 Begin so leisurely displaying part of shoe (6)
17 Furniture item following upper-class fashion (5)
19 Rise high, enthralling learner, using sun's energy (5)

*Yesterday's solution on page 15**

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THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

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